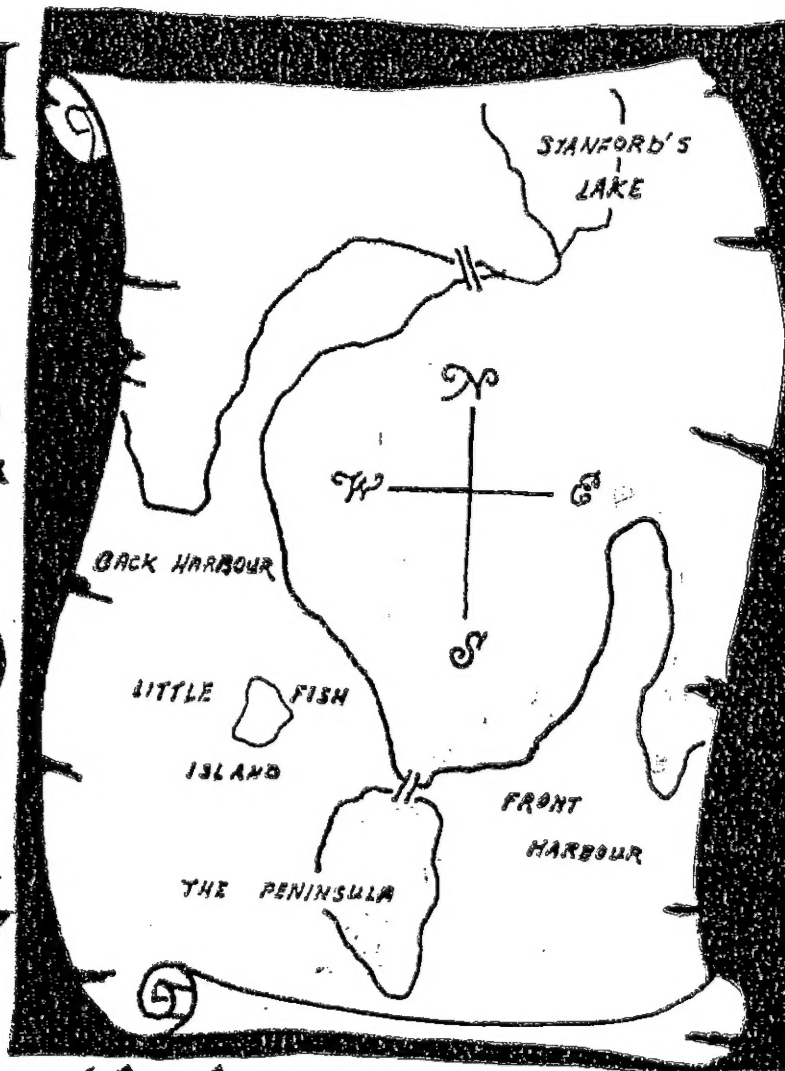


HISTORY



of **Chester**
1759 1967

Jay Line B. Story

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FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 1988
TRYON DAILY BULLETIN
TRYON, NORTH CAROLINA USA

Margaret Lathrop Law

Margaret Lathrop Law, 98, of Vista Terrace, Tryon, N. C. died Thursday morning at her home.

Miss Law was born in Spartanburg, S. C. and was the daughter of the late William Adger and Lucy Lathrop Goode Law. She had spend most of her life in Philadelphia, Novia Scotia and New York City. After graduating from Wellesley College and obtaining a Masters degree from the University of Pennsylvania she became Publicity Director for the Philadelphia Art Museum and became a feature writer for the Philadelphia Public Ledger, The Saturday Evening Post, Readers Digest, House Beautiful, Ladies Home Journal, McCalls and others. Her 1046 poems, 70 articles and 9 novels are recorded in the Wellesley College Library.

Surviving are: one sister, Mrs. Dwight Harris of Baltimore, Md.; one niece, Mrs Mary Waterbury of Baltimore, Md.; one nephew, William Harris of Mt. Washington, N.H.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday in Oakwood Cemetery, Spartanburg, S. C. with the Rev. John D. Smith officiating.

McFarland Funeral Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

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CHESTER BRANCH

OF

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE OF NOVA SCOTIA

FOUNDED ON JANUARY 30, 1923

COMPILING OF THE HISTORY OF THE
VILLAGE OF CHESTER

BEGAN IN JANUARY 1966

COMPLETED IN CANADA'S CENTENNIAL YEAR 1967



DEDICATION

This book is dedicated by the members of

the

Chester Branch W.I.N.S.

to the memory of

THE PIONEER WOMEN

of

THE CHESTER AREA

FOREWORD

How the "History Of Chester" came to be written. For a number of years the members of the Chester Branch of W.I.N.S. talked of writing a History of Chester. Finally, in December 1965, it was decided that we do this as our Centennial Project. After months of frantic working, we compiled a book and entered in the Tweedsmuir Competition. To our delight, it placed first in the Provincial Eliminations, with a mark of ninety-eight out of a possible one-hundred, and was forwarded for the National Tweedsmuir Competition.

In the national competition it was awarded 81 points. The top entry received 85 points. The histories were displayed at the 4th national convention of the FWIC at the University of Guelph from June 12 to 16, 1967.

Encouraged by this we decided to have it published. Due to the length of the original book the copy had to be revised. Again we reviewed, re-wrote and condensed. This is the History we now present to you, the story of the people, events, achievements and changes in this area during the past two hundred years.

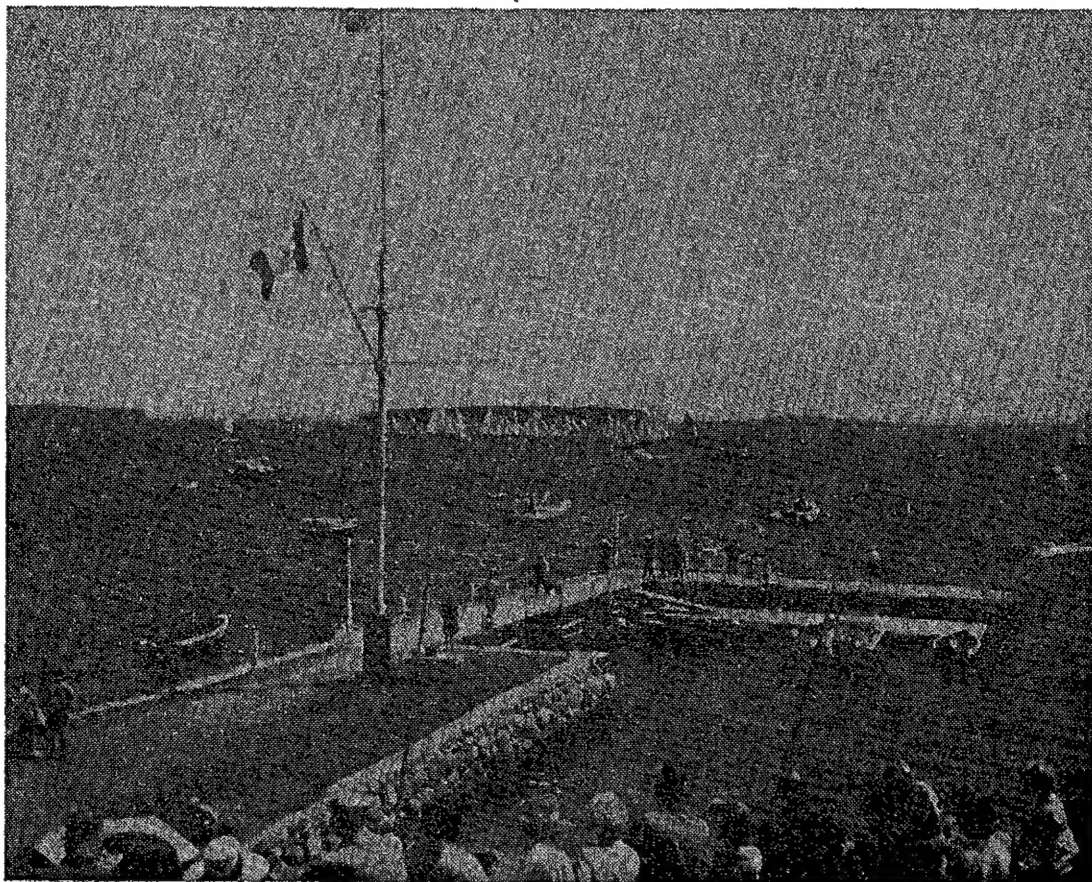
We ask your forgiveness of our errors. It is our hope, that even in a small way, we have contributed to this generation and the future generations, a record of happenings in Chester.

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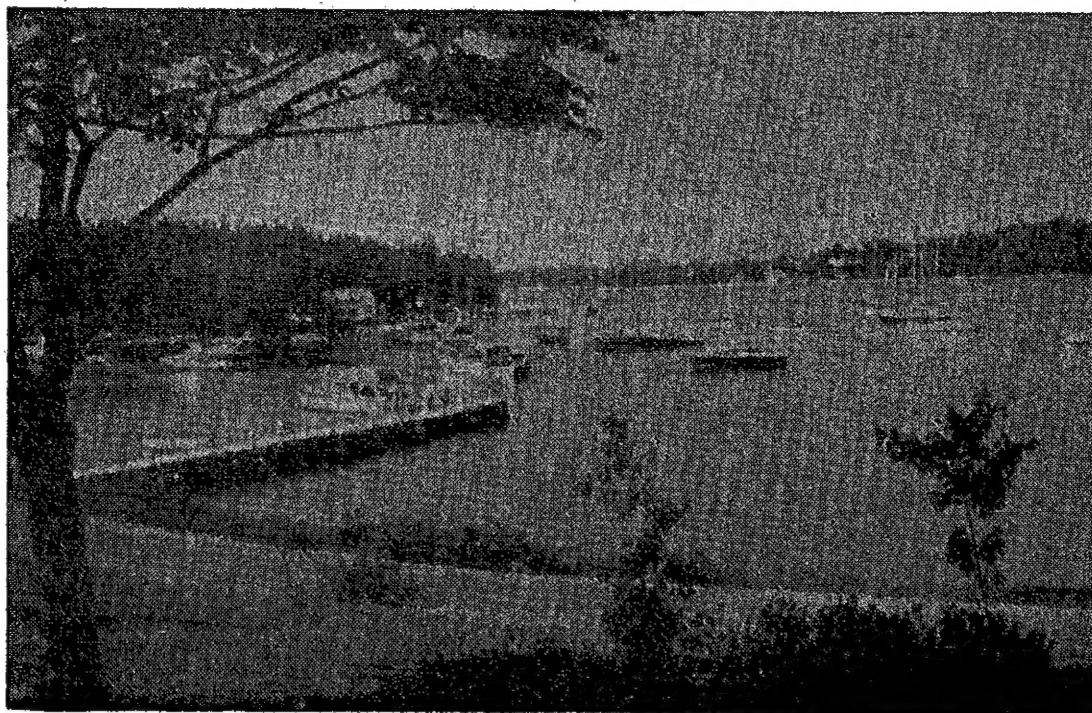
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FRONT HARBOUR



BACK HARBOUR
By E. Rutherford

HISTORY OF CHESTER BRANCH OF W. I. N. S. 1923 - 1967

The Chester Branch of Women's Institute of Nova Scotia was organized by Miss Helen MacDougall at a meeting held in the home of Mrs. W. D. MacNeil on January 30, 1923. The following officers and directors were elected for the year 1923:

President — Mrs. W. D. MacNeil.
Vice-President — Miss Annie Stanford.
Treasurer — Miss E. D. Stanford.
Secretary — Miss Hattie Brown.
Directors — Mrs. Douglas Mills, Mrs. Frank Freda,
Mrs. Stanley Zinck.

Enrolled were fifty-six members; the membership fee was twenty-five cents.

Information from the minute books tells us that these women immediately started with work for the benefit of the community, putting on teas, garden parties, concerts and lantern-slide shows, to raise money to fulfill their many projects. The work so bravely started by this group of women has been carried on for forty-four years. During these years the names enrolled have changed many times, but there are still five participating members from the charter membership list namely: Miss Dorothy Gillman, Mrs. Perry Corkum, Miss Mabel Mitchell, Mrs. Murray Corkum, and Miss Ethel Barkhouse (now Mrs. George Eklof).

The first community work of this W. I. Branch was that of taking care of the cleaning of the War Memorial Monument on the Parade Grounds. In August of the year 1923, Lady Byng, wife of Canada's Governor-General visited Chester. On behalf of the Chester W.I., Miss Annie Evans presented a bouquet of flowers to Lady Byng. The ceremony took place at the War Memorial Monument. The W. I. continued to honor Chester's war dead, by placing, during the warm months, fresh flowers at the War Memorial. Maple trees were planted on the school grounds in honor of the former school boys who fell in the First Great War. The Parade Grounds were kept beautiful for years at a cost of forty dollars each summer.

Regarding war work, the members of the Chester W. I. continued with it during the years of the Second World War. In 1939 this branch of W. I. purchased five barrels of apples for British Forces under arms and their dependents in Britain. Magazines were sent to the Magazine Exchange at Halifax for men in the service. Donations of money were given to the Ambulance Fund, Spitfire Fund, Mobile Kitchen Fund, Queens Canadian Fund, Princess Alice Foundation and the Russian Relief Fund.

For ten consecutive Sundays in the summer of 1940 the members of Chester W. I. assisted entertainment and teas held at the Yacht Club for visiting Service Men. In 1942 this W. I. co-operated with the Civic Emergency Organization and secured the Masonic Hall as an Emergency Station.

We agreed to keep the room clean and to maintain in conjunction with it, a community kitchen in the nearby Baptist vestry. This same year money was collected for the Ditty Bag Fund; gifts for Navy men at Christmas. Sixty-one bags were made up, the balance of the money collected, amounting to \$74.43, was sent to the Flying Angel Mission for Merchant Seamen. This work was continued until 1945, the balance of the money after cost of making up the Ditty Bags each time was donated to a worthy fund. Money was also raised to pay board for convalescent service men after their discharge from hospital. The local W. I. looked after the distribution of ration books. During the issue of War Savings Stamps we always gave them as prizes in the schools.

During the first year of the W. I. organization the members realized the need for them to make a contribution for better school facilities. The work with the school board and school staff has continued through the years. Re-decorating the interior of the five room school building was one of the early projects paid for by the W. I. Each year contributions in various ways have been made, i.e., the purchasing of flags, a victrola, mimeograph, drinking fountain, basket and volley balls, play-ground equipment, Books-of-Knowledge, monthly magazines, first aid supplies, financing of sewing classes, securing instructors and financing the 4-H Garment Club, offering prizes for public speaking and debating contests, as well as essay writing. For a number of years the Chester W. I. carried the cost of having the trees and shrubs sprayed on the school grounds.

A music teacher was obtained for the school due to the efforts of the Chester W. I. Members of the branch personally approached the Minister of Education for a grant to be given the Chester school for the teaching of music. In 1951, due to over crowding in the school rooms, it was necessary for certain classes to have half sessions. This W. I. wrote to the Trustees of the School stating our discontent with the schedule of the first four grades, because we felt it was not beneficial to the pupils. We suggested that rooms be made available to meet the immediate need of having full time sessions for these grades. As a result of this, the interest of the citizens throughout the community was aroused and a four room building was built to fill the need.

The W. I. still takes an interest in all the schools within the village. Each year prizes are given to each of the grades. A scholarship was started in 1947, given to a Grade XI student who met certain specifications. The scholarship was continued each year. When the new Municipal High School came into operation with Grade XII being taught as well, the W. I. members agreed to give the scholarship to a Grade XII student, and also to sponsor a Grade XI student attending the United Nations Seminar held each summer at Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick. Each year the members on the staff of the schools are entertained by the local W. I.

In 1965 when the Lunenburg County Schools Music Festival was held in Chester Municipal High School, the Chester W. I. sponsored the Festival. It required a canvassing of the whole county, and a great deal of work toward the program arrangement. At the close of the Festival a reception was given by the local W. I. when the adjudicator was guest of honor.

This year the "Ellie Zinck Memorial Scholarship" will be given for the first time. Mrs. Zinck had been an active and interested member of this branch. Upon her death, friends, relatives and her immediate family made contributions in her memory, to the Chester Women's Institute, so that a Memorial Fund could be set up.

The young people of the village have always received encouragement in all their worthy endeavours. Support has been given over the years to the hockey rink and to the tennis court. Boy Scouts and Cub Packs have been assisted. The Girl Guide Company was organized and sponsored by this branch in 1932. Uniforms and other needs were supplied. After continuing for a number of years the group disbanded. It was reorganized in 1950 and again the W. I. came to its assistance. They assisted in the expense of a Girl Guide attending Doe Lake and secured transportation for Girl Guides attending camps and jamborees.

In 1951 the W. I. sponsored a number of local girls to enter the "Queen of the Sea" contest at the Fisheries Exhibition held each year in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. The princess chosen to represent us was Miss Dianne Elliot. Competing with girls from other sections of the province, Miss Elliot was chosen "Queen of the Sea."

When the property, which is now the Zoe Valle Library, was first offered to the community, the local W. I. addressed the Municipal Council in session, and received permission to sponsor the property until an endowment fund was raised. The monthly W. I. meetings are held in the Club rooms of the Zoe Valle Library. The W. I. has assisted with the redecorating of the interior of the building and also donate to it each year a small sum of money. The members assist with the planting of the flowers in the gardens of the grounds. A member of our branch, Mrs. Horace Zinck, donated the Centennial Flowering Crab Tree in memory of her husband and it was planted on the Zoe Valle Library ground with a fitting ceremony. Each year the Chester W. I. members are hostess to citizens and friends who attend the annual business meeting of the Zoe Valle Library.

The first Public Health Clinic was sponsored by the W. I. The Public Health Committee and the local doctors co-operated in this endeavor. Immunization Clinics for the whole municipality were sponsored and assisted with by members of this branch. For a number of years members volunteered help with the District Nurse at the "Well Baby Clinic". The W. I. had approached the Department of Health to have a District Health Nurse placed in this area, and finally their wish was granted.

In later years the women turned to helping in other areas where assistance was needed due to disasters or other causes. They contributed toward the Manitoba Relief Fund; they packed boxes to be sent to Springhill after the terrible mine cave-in had taken place there. In more recent years the members have sent large quantities of good used clothing to the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada. Each winter they purchase flannelette and yarn to be made up in baby layettes to include in these boxes, and at Christmas time each member contributes a personal gift to this cause.

The programs presented by the Committees within our branch have been interesting and informative. Many of the members availed themselves of the instructions given in cooking, nursing, sewing and weaving classes which were sponsored by this group. We benefited by many valuable demonstrations from our Provincial Department, and many members also attended the short courses offered from headquarters at Truro, Nova Scotia. During these years of functioning, we were fortunate to have many prominent and excellent speakers at our monthly meetings.

We have always expressed interest in the work of the other branches of our district, attending the rallies and also being hostess to the district rallies. Members from the Chester Branch of W. I. N. S. who served on the district executive are: Presidents, Mrs. Perry Corkum, Mrs. John Newcombe, Mrs. A. H. Marshall and Mrs. Arnold Hume. Names of those who acted as Secretary-Treasurer are: Miss Lalla O'Calloghan (now Mrs. M. Michealson), Mrs. George Eklof and Mrs. Cyril Armstrong.

Delegates from our branch look forward to attending the Provincial Convention each year, and always a number of members attend at least one day of meetings and programs. They are interested in this opportunity to become better acquainted with the work of the W. I. N. S. and also enjoy the pleasure of meeting members from other branches throughout the province. Our branch felt honored to have been invited on two occasions to participate in the program at the Provincial Convention. In 1949 we placed second in the Kitchen Improvement Contest in Nova Scotia.

The presidents of the Chester Branch of W. I. N. S. have been:

1923	Mrs. W. D. MacNeil.
1924	Mrs. Stanley Zinck.
1925	Mrs. Rupert Millett.
1926	Mrs. Stanley Zinck.
1927	Mrs. Charles Hiltz.
1928	Mrs. D. W. N. Zwicker.
1929	Mrs. Henry Mitchell.
1930 — 1940	Mrs. Perry Corkum.
1941 — 1942	Miss Mabel Mitchell.
1943 — 1960	Mrs. Perry Corkum.
1960 — 1965	Mrs. A. H. Marshall,
1965 — 1967	Mrs. Arnold Hume.

In the village of Chester one would say the names Women's Institute and Mrs. Perry Corkum were synonymous. She is a Charter Member and an Honorary Life Member of the branch. All these years she has remained an active member, giving of herself unstintingly that every project of the branch should come to fruition. For twenty-seven years she served as president.

Another Charter Member who remained active until her death in November 1966, was Mrs. Owen Evans. She had given generously of her excellent ability as a sewing instructress to classes of both adults and children throughout the years, and was also a member of the executive. She was treasurer of our branch for eighteen years.

Of course one realizes that in order to accomplish all the work that has been recorded in the minute books, a great number of women gave of themselves unselfishly. It would be impossible to mention their names individually. Much credit is due them; it is only through the co-operation of all the Institute members with the executives as leaders that our branch has flourished so successfully.

Our interest has spread out to wider fields. We have made friends outside of Canada by means of correspondence. At present we are corresponding with an Institute in Embrooke, England.

A good percentage of our members attended the 3rd National Convention at Wolfville, Nova Scotia, in 1964. We were thrilled with the realization that we were a part of this tremendous active world-wide organization. Attending the Convention gave us the opportunity to know all the wonderful work this women-power has accomplished and will still accomplish as we the members of, The Women's Institute continue to work together.

This information taken from the minute books.

"FOR HOME AND COUNTRY"

CHESTER GEOGRAPHY

Chester is situated on a point of land at the head of Mahone Bay. The extreme end of this point is a peninsula. On either side of the peninsula long arms of the sea reach inland and form two harbours. The harbour on the west is called the Back Harbour, the one on the east is called the Front Harbour. There are many islands in the bay. One writer said, "For a magnificent blending of land and water it is unsurpassed". In the area that is now called the Municipality of the District of Chester there are several coves, and three rivers empty into the bay. The rivers are Gold River, Middle River and East River. To the surveyors, the rivers meant available water power. The advance parties were able to report a good living could be made from lumbering and fishing; also prospects for coastal trade were good. The climate is delightful.

The front harbour is large enough to accomodate large ships and the islands are a protection from the ocean.

Chester is 42 miles from Halifax
 Chester is 23 miles from Lunenburg
 Chester is 16 miles from Mahone
 Chester is 6 miles from Gold River
 Chester is 6 miles from East River

Other places nearby are Western Shore, Chester Basin, Chester Grant, Marriott's Cove, Middle River, Robinson's Corner, Windsor Road, Canaan, and East Chester.

In its early history, it was intended that Chester should be the centre, so it was laid out in town lots.

If we turn our gaze from the sea and look to the north, the east and the west, we find the hills. Wake-up-hill, about two miles from the village, is two hundred and fifty feet above sea level. From this point we see a glorious panorama of all the district and discover some of the beautiful lakes. Several lakes are named after the early settlers.

Looking toward the sea from Wake-up-hill and to our left, we see Mt. Aspotogan on the east of the bay with Deep Cove at its foot. In the early days, Deep Cove was a favorite hiding place of pirates, it was here that they planned much of their mischief.

There is a hill worthy of special mention. It is really a ridge and extends from Robinson's Corner to the shore; standing like a grand sentinel on the west side of the back harbour. This hill may be seen from several of the neighbouring settlements. For many years the north end of the ridge was known as Webbers Hill. Late in the "Gay Nineties" a wealthy gentleman came from England and bought a large part of the hill from James Whitford. He started to build a castle on his land, a replica of Haddon Hall, Derbyshire, England. For personal reasons the castle was never finished but the hill acquired the name, Haddon Hill.

The south end of the ridge was called Walker's Hill, named after its first settler, Gottlieb Walker. This part of the hill figured prominently in local railroad history. Early in 1900, the railroad between Mahone Bay and Halifax was built. If Chester was to benefit from the railroad, the only approach from the west was through the hill. Operation railroad was a success; a large portion of the hill was removed and dumped into the valley on the west side of it. Even so, the beauty of the hill is somewhat marred by the scar thus sustained.

For years, when lovers could not afford a buggy, they settled for a stroll on Haddon Hill. The sunsets as viewed from this hill are glorious. As you gaze you become lost in wonder; nothing interrupts your thoughts except the return of a bird to her nest, the bleating of a sheep or the tinkle of a cow bell. A still small voice, seems to say, like the Psalmist of Old, "I will lift mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." Psalm CXXI-Verse I.

There are other hills of lesser dimension in the village, namely; Richardson's Hill, Campbell's Hill, Vinegar Hill, Blockhouse Hill, and Church Hill. Target Hill is on the north of the east side of the village.

To the geologists, our hills are Drumlins; to the photographer, a delight.

The following well describes our beautiful country:

Sweet interchange
Of hill and valley, rivers, woods and plains,
Now land, now sea and shores with forest crowned.

John Milton.

Gold has been mined at Chester Basin; presently the gold mines are closed.

ISLANDS

Islands in the Mahone Bay, in the Municipality of Chester are:

Big Duck	Big Fish
Little Duck	Little Fish
Anshutz	Gooseberry
Mark	Clay
Lynch	Birch
Mountain	Grassy
Saddle	Oak
Snake	Frog
Greaves	Apple
Barkhouse	Sand
Flat	Mason's
Calf	Rafuse
Quaker	Hume's
Meiseners	Marvins
Seccombe's	

The original spelling is used for the names of some of the Islands.

The Chester Islands are mountain tops.

Oak Island is the most widely known, so called for the beautiful oak trees that once graced the east end of it. It is situated on the west of the Bay, about four miles from Chester. A narrow channel separates it from Western Shore. It is about a mile long and half a mile wide, at the widest point.

For years, treasure seekers have searched for gold, supposed to have been buried by Freebooters that haunted the coast of Nova Scotia, nearly two hundred years ago. To date, no treasure has been found, although large amounts of money have been spent in an effort to find treasure there. Several men have undergone great hardship and death in this fruitless effort.

Big Tancook and Little Tancook Islands guard the entrance to the Mahone Bay, they belong to the Municipality of Lunenburg.

QUAKER ISLAND

Quaker Island is about a mile and a half from the Village of Chester. It received its name from the first settlers. A number of Quakers emigrated from New England and lived there for a short time. It was their intention to establish a Whale Fishing Industry; they were unable to buy the Island so moved away.

In 1883 the Government built a Lighthouse on the Island. The structure built in the style of that period, had a tower approximately forty-five feet high. The Lightkeeper's two story house was attached to the square tower.

The light, of course, was in the top of the tower. It was a huge oil lamp with a very wide wick; it burned kerosene oil and was filled with oil every day. This part of the lamp was metal. The glass lamp shade was red with a thick heavily grooved globe of white glass; held fast in a metal casing was a reflector.

The red beams from this light were sent over the sea for many miles. It was, indeed, a great help to anyone trying to make the harbour at night. Many a Captain said "There's Quaker, we'll be all right now". The Light-house keeper lit the lamp at sunset and turned it out at sunrise. The Fog Horn was used when a vessel or boat blew a horn, usually in fog. The Keeper answered by turning a crank that was attached to the fog horn. The fog horn was installed in a large wooden box. This brought forth a loud, weird noise.

The Government ship came once a year with supplies, chiefly oil and equipment for the light. A book was kept by the light keeper in which weather conditions were recorded each day. In 1937 the building was burned to the ground. Since then an automatic RED LIGHT has replaced the old one.

Following are the names of the LIGHT HOUSE KEEPERS:

William Whalen	William Mitchell
George Barkhouse	Edmund Fader
Gerald Bond.	

Maybe the following story came from the Quaker Island Quakers.

The Quaker's wife said, "Some folks are queer."

The husband replied, "Everyone is queer except me and thee and sometimes, I think thou art a little queer."

The average tide has a rise and fall of seven to eight feet. The highest tides may go as high as ten feet. The wharves are high enough to accommodate boats at any tide.

Lakes and points have been named after early settlers.

LAKES

Vaughan Lake
Croft Lake
Henry Lake
Clarke Lake
Hutt Lake
Larder Lake
Bezanson Lake
Millett Lake
Henniger Lake
Corkum Lake
Spectacle Lake
Stanford Lake
Whitford Lake
Henneberry Lake
Labrador Lake

POINTS

Grandel Point
Borgel Point
Swallow Point
Hawker Point
Eisner Point
Dauphinee Point
Boutilier Point
Walker Point
Nauss Point
Lobster Point
Hume Point
Moland Point
Indian Point
Rous Point
Meisner Point
Zinck Head

Labrador Lake, Indian Point and possibly Lobster Point were named to please the Indians.

Swallow Point, named after early settlers.

INDIANS

The Indians were Micmacs, or in their own language "Miggaamacks" belonging to the Algonquin family. The French in 1608, called them, "Sour-iquois" or salt water men.

The Micmacs were of a reddish brown color, with high cheek bones, large lips and mouths, long black coarse hair and fine intelligent, penetrating eyes. They were very strong and agile.

They resented the arrival of the white man. They usually kept out of sight in the day time and went on their errands of cruelty by night.

We will not relate all their misdeeds, just one --

THE PAYZANT STORY

FEBRUARY 4, 1905

THE STORY OF THE PAYZANT FAMILY.

(written for the "Suburban" by Freda)

It is a bright, clear, winter's morning. I look from my window on a picture of surpassing loveliness. The slopes of the hill shine in a robe of glistening white. The evergreens are all jewelled with fairy crystals. The merry jingle of sleigh bells sound from the highroad, and a troop of bright coated children goes past with sleds and skates. Across the deep blue waters of "Belle Mahone" I see the smoke rise heavenward in dainty columns from the cottages on the western Islands.

From this peaceful scene my memory turns to days long since gone by, when first a home was planted on those island shores.

I see in fancy another such bright morning fade into awful night with the scalping knife and tomahawk of the savages dealing torture to a happy family on yonder island. Let me tell the story as I heard it: just how much may be credited to the story-tellers fancy, I cannot say; but the main parts of the story are historical facts.

About one hundred and fifty years ago, Lewis Payzant, a native of Normandy removed with his family from the island of Jersey to Nova Scotia. He brought letters from influential friends, commending him to Governor Lawrence at Halifax. He received from the Governor a grant of certain islands in Mahone Bay; and the Governor, to secure for him all possible assistance and protection in his new home, gave him letters of recommendation to Colonel Sutherland,

About the same time Captain Cook and others settled on the mainland at Mahone Bay. A government sloop was furnished for their assistance, and a party of "Rangers" detailed for their protection. The latter were sent out in detachments to range every day near the houses of the inhabitants, to protect them while they were out to work. At night they were quartered in different houses as seemed most convenient for their own accommodations and safety of the settlers. They were directed to use every precaution to prevent a surprise, and were forbidden to fire away ammunition except on real service. Piles of brushwood and other inflammable material were kept ready for lighting on the surrounding hills to give warning of the approach of the Indians, who were as elsewhere, a source of constant anxiety.

On one of the islands, in a beautiful clearing, Mr. Payzant soon erected a comfortable log cabin, in which his family resided. Two years of toil and hardship, of hopes and fears, of joys and sorrows passed away, and they looked forward hopefully to the establishment of a prosperous and happy home in the land of their adoption. A commodious two-story dwelling was near completion when those dreadful events occurred which scattered afar the members of the household, bringing death to some and a fate far worse to the hapless survivors.

On that memorable evening the workmen had gone to their homes on the mainland; a young moon shone faintly from the western horizon. The family were about to retire for the night when an unusual noise attracted their attention. Fearing trouble, Mr. Payzant seized his musket and stepping to the door discharged it, hoping to frighten away the intruders. Immediately he was attacked by an Indian warrior. Brave Mrs. Payzant rushed to the assistance of her husband, only to see her husband fall lifeless at her feet. As the Indian drew his scalping-knife she hastily retreated and barred the doors, hoping to resist the attack of the savages till the alarm might be given on shore. Aided by a servant, she piled logs before the doors, hid the younger children amid feather beds, and prepared to stand a siege. From a couple of crevices she watched the savage horde outside, the terrific war-whoops chilling her blood with terror. Would help never come? Finally she saw the Indians set fire to the house. They shot blazing arrows on the roof; they made torches of rags dipped in brimstone and thrust them against the walls. Further resistance was useless. Resigning herself to her fate, directed the servant to unbar the doors. Like a pack of wild beasts the savages burst in, and with fiendish tortures, put to death the poor servant-woman and her infant child, mimicking her frenzied cries, her voice and manner. Mrs. Payzant of course, expected a like fate for herself and her children, but in this she was mistaken. The Indians placed her, with her four children, three boys and a girl, in a canoe under guard. When they had loaded their canoes with plunder, they set fire to the dwelling. High in the air shot the flames, shedding a lurid glare over the waters. In the midst of that blazing pile lay the mangled bodies of the beloved, while with grief and horror too deep for words, the wretched captives looked for the last time toward their late happy home. Rapidly the canoes disappeared in the gloom, and darkness fell like a pall upon the scene of desolation.

Before dawn next morning the party landed in Chester and proceeded across country to the head of the St. Croix River, passing what is now Wind-

sor in the gloaming of the following evening. They passed so near the settlement that they could see distinctly the sentry on his beat. But the canoes drew in close to the shore, stealing along noiselessly in the deep shadows, while the captives were terrified into silence by a gleaming tomahawk brandished over their heads. Before them on a gentle slope, Mrs. Payzant noticed a burial-ground. Ah! Would to God, that she slept with her children within the quiet spot! In that hallowed place, its inhabitants feared no more the war cry of the savages.

From Windsor they crossed to Chignecto, and thence were hurried toward St. Ann's where the Indians expected to receive from the French the promised reward for prisoners and scalps. On their way they encamped one evening on the border of a lake. Not far distant a few French trappers had already gathered round a blazing camp-fire secure in the knowledge that the Indians were their friends and allies. But before dawn the treacherous savages crept stealthily on the unexpecting Frenchmen, of whom all save one fell victims to the Indians greed for scalps, the latter knowing well that the governor could not distinguish a French scalp from an English. One of the trappers escaped by dropping softly from the banks into the waters of the lake, where he remained concealed by floating lily-leaves until the savages had departed.

Throughout their journey, terrible as it was, the Payzants were not subjected to the ill-treatment which often fell to the lot of captives. As they travelled throughout the woods the younger children were always carried on the backs of warriors. Once, however, little Lewis, age four years, fell under the displeasure of one of the band. The portion of bread given the little boy was so bad that he could not eat it, so he threw it away. An Indian child, falling asleep before he finished his supper, allowed his bread to drop from his hand, and hungry little Lewis picked it up and ate it. Scarcely had they begun the day's journey next morning, when the Indian lad complained to his father that Lewis had stolen his bread. The Indian flew into a terrible passion, threatening Lewis with tortures when they should next encamp. But during the day, becoming intoxicated, the Indian fell from his canoe and was drowned, and once more Lewis was saved from death.

On their arrival at St. Ann's, Mrs. Payzant was separated from her children and sent on to Quebec. Shortly after her arrival her youngest child, a daughter was born. The family in whose care she was placed soon became friends of their interesting prisoner. Here later on she came to the notice of a prominent official who was able to render her great services. Mrs. Payzant was a woman of charming personal appearance. Her high courage, her noble character, and romantic story won for her the sympathy and affection of all with whom she came in contact.

Presently the high official discovered that he had lost his heart to the beautiful English woman. Eloquently he pleaded his cause, entreating her to give him the right to shield and protect her through the remainder of life's journey. Mrs. Payzant had learned to honour and respect this noble gentleman, but firmly refused him, saying that life henceforth held but one object for her, --- to find and recover her children. Raising her hand to his

lips, the officer bowed low and retired, determining to make every effort to discover the missing children.

Months of anxiety and suspense dragged slowly by. At length the officer one day brought her joyful news that two of her children had been ransomed from the Indians, and were even then on their way to Quebec. The other two, the eldest boy and the girl, had been located but their captors steadily refused to give them up on any terms.

Almost in despair, the mother obtained an audience of the Roman Catholic Bishop, imploring him to use his influence to rescue her children. Her appeal was successful. The Bishop immediately sent instructions to the priest at St. Ann's, directing him to demand the immediate surrender of the children, and to refuse absolution to any who might continue to detain them. This threat proved effectual and the children were at once handed over to the priest, and ere long with other British prisoners, arrived in Quebec.

Who could describe the mother's joy when she heard of their safe arrival? For long months she had been tortured with the thought of her darlings at the mercy of fierce and blood-thirsty savages, enduring hunger, cold, fatigue or illness. Now they were near, and safe and well, she felt that she must fly to embrace them. But even this was denied her. She must wait with what patience she could muster. At length a military guard brought a band of children to the door of her lodging and she was directed to pick out her own. This was very quickly done, and after months of separation, she once more gathered her precious little ones in her arms, and with tears of joy, gave thanks to the great All-Father who had preserved them from the perils of the wilderness.

Not long after these events, the fortress of Québec fell into the hands of the English, and the captives were at once set free. Mrs. Payzant returned with her children to Nova Scotia settling near Windsor, and on her death, she was laid to rest in the very church-yard at which she had gazed with longing eyes in the first agony of her widowhood.

A son of Lewis Payzant attained high honour at Laval Collège, becoming a dignitary of the Church which had been instrumental in rescuing him from the Indians. The other members of the family settled in Nova Scotia, where many of the descendants now reside.

In consequence of these cruel massacres in Lunenburg, at Beau-se Jour and elsewhere, Governor Lawrence issued a proclamation offering a reward of £30 for every male Indian above the age of sixteen years brought in alive, for a scalp of such Indian £25; and £25 for every Indian woman and child taken captive.

Murdoch says: "It is impossible to read such documents without a strong sensation of pain and disgust. English and French alike adopted the Indian plan of scalping, and added to it refinement unknown to Indians in giving a pecuniary recompense for the scalp of an enemy. While we cannot approve of such indiscriminate slaughter, we should remember the Governor was justified in using most severe measures by the fact that these terrible outrages were likely to be repeated at any moment.

In January, 1760, five Indian Chiefs appeared before the council in Halifax and asked for peace. They represented the Micmacs of the mainland. One tribe after another followed. In 1761 a grand pow-wow was held at the governor's garden, when they solemnly agreed to keep the Peace. Thus savage war-fare, murders, scalplings and burnings in Nova Scotia were brought to a close.

There is an Indian reservation at Gold River, two Indian families live there.

Gold River is well known for its excellent salmon fishing.

Mrs. Freda was born in Truro 1868. She came to Chester as a girl, having taught school in St. Margaret's Bay before her marriage to Frank Freda. Her maiden name was Josephine Christie.

She contributed much of "Educational value" to the village as we will learn from her work as librarian. She wrote several short stories and brochures. The Lure of Pirates Gold is fascinating.

Mrs. Freda died in Chester May 1950.

Mrs. Freda's two daughters, Mrs. Gertrude Olive and Miss Mary Freda now reside here. Mrs. Olive formerly taught at the Provincial Normal College. Miss Freda taught several years in Halifax and other places.

(Mrs. F. R.) Grace Nauss

HISTORY OF CHESTER

After the Founding of Halifax, 1749, settlements were made along the South Shore of Nova Scotia.

In 1759, although the country was still at war, agents from New England appeared in Halifax and were given vessels and guards that they might explore the coast and see the land that was considered suitable for settlers.

In that same year a Proclamation inviting New England settlers to Nova Scotia had been made. It was proposed that a township should consist of one hundred thousand (100,000) acres. One hundred acres to be allowed to each settler and fifty acres for each member of his family. The terms - "Free yearly quit rent of one shilling (sterling) for every fifty acres granted." The settlers came under obligation to cultivate his holding in thirty years. The prospect of "Ownership of one's land", was a great inducement to prospective settlers.

Charles Morris, surveyor general of Nova Scotia, was also agent for immigration of settlers. He came to Nova Scotia as an officer of the New England volunteers during the war, 1744-1748. He remained in Halifax and made a career for himself in civil life. He and Dr. Prescott worked tirelessly for the settlement of Chester, which was, in the beginning, a New England settlement.

Shoreham, later changed to Chester, was granted to Timothy Houghton and William Keyes and others, a tract of land approximately one hundred thousand acres, situated, lying and being at the bottom of Mahone Bay. Beginning at the east side of Martin's River and bounded westerly by said river, to a head land toward the bottom of Mahone Bay on the east side thereof.

This township is to be called hereafter and known by the name of the township of Shoreham. The grant was made by Charles Lawrence, Esq., Captain General and Governor-in Chief of Nova Scotia.

This grant was made to seventy-three people. The original grant may be seen at the Public Archives, Halifax.

Shoreham grant contained about three-fifths of the territory comprised in the present municipality of Chester.

The name Shoreham was changed to Chester a year after the grant was given. The name Chester was chosen in honor of the Earl of Chester, one of the Lords of Trade and Plantation.

According to Judge M. B. DesBrisay, in his History of Lunenburg County a few settlers were here before the grant was given, namely:- Dr. Jonathan Prescott, Benjamin Bridge, Phineas Willard, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Bradshaw and William Keyes. These first settlers had a mill on the south side of the lake, later called Stanford's lake.

Benjamin Bridge was a surveyor and had been in the vicinity as early as 1753. His grant, four hundred and fifty acres at, what is now Robinson's Corner, went nearly to Middle River.

Captain Houghton belonged to Bolton, Massachusetts, about thirty miles from Boston. He served in Col. John Winslow's Regiment. Family tradition says he did military service in Nova Scotia and being in Halifax he arranged with the Council for the grant at Shoreham. Several of Capt. Houghton's descendants live in Chester.

Captain Houghton and Phillip Knaut jointly owned seven hundred and seventy acres, present boundaries would be north of the railroad, extending north past Robinson's Corner and including Stanford's lake and Spectacle lake on the east, the west boundary was the old road. His house was a little north of the railroad station. Captain Timothy Houghton died in Halifax of smallpox, May 10, 1780.

We know very little of Phineas Willard, except he lived east of the village, possibly East Chester. It appears he was a friend of Captain Houghton as the name Willard is given as a christian name in the Houghton family, also in the Dauphinee family. Phineas Willard is mentioned in DesBrisay's history as having a farm lot.

Mr. Johnson is mentioned in Rev. Seccombe's diary, he says, "Mr. Johnson caught a skate at the wharf, a curious-made creature". From this

we also learn that the advance party had built a wharf before the grant was given.

Dr. Jonathan Prescott was born in Littleton, Massachusetts, May 24, 1725. Dr. Prescott was both surgeon and Captain of engineers at Louisbourg in 1745. He came to Nova Scotia with the forces under Sir William Pepperal. After the capture of Louisbourg he received grants of land in Halifax, Chester and Lunenburg. He settled in Chester in 1758.

He was twice married, first to Mary Vassie of Cambridge, Massachusetts, who died in 1757. His second wife was Ann Blagden; she was born in Halifax, England, and died in Halifax, Nova Scotia, February, 1810.

There were two children, a son and a daughter, from the first marriage; the son died young and the daughter returned to New England.

By his second marriage, he had five sons and five daughters. His eldest son John was engaged in farming for several years at Zinck's Point, Chester. John was also "Captain of the Militia". Dr. Joseph Prescott practised medicine in Halifax and another son Charles Ramage Prescott built Acacia Grove, Starr's Point, Kings County, Nova Scotia. This beautiful residence was built in 1799 and is presently occupied by his descendents.

It is not known definitely where the Prescott house in Chester was located; we assume it was near the shore. His grant of land, three hundred acres, was at Zinck's Point, today we know the property as, "The Chester Golf Course". He also owned two islands near the point and another grant of land, fifty acres, at East River. A huge rock on the shore at East River is a memorial to Chester's first doctor, it is called Prescott Rock. If this flat topped boulder could speak, we would know more of the times the doctor brought healing and comfort to the pioneers of that area. The rock is submerged at high tide. At low tide, the rock-weed covered stone is as prominent as it was when the brave captain viewed it from his land, two hundred years ago.

David Moland, Chester owns a part of the above mentioned grant and Prescott Rock may be seen from his cabin.

Dr. Prescott owned a schooner and travelled to near-by villages, on the coast, by water. The schooner would be anchored and he would go ashore in a row-boat.

Sickness and grief was known to all the families. Susannah Prescott, daughter of Dr. Jonathan Prescott, died May 23, 1775.

The Prescott house was burned down three times by the Indians. After the third fire the doctor was given the block-house, which became his dwelling. This house has changed owners several times; it still stands on Block-house Hill. It is presently owned by Dr. Daniel Blain, Mrs. Blain and Mrs. George Cavendish.

This remarkable gentleman, after a lengthy illness, died in Chester, January 11, 1807. He was buried in the Anglican Cemetery, Chester.

Rev. John Seccombe was born in Medford, Massachusetts, May 6, 1708. He was a Congregational minister who had graduated from Harvard College in 1728. He served as pastor of the church at Harvard, a small Massachusetts town, from 1733 to 1757. He married Mercy Williams, daughter of Rev. William Williams, March 10, 1736 or 1737. He died in Chester, October 29, 1792.

When the town and farm lots were laid out Mr. Seccombe received a share. Mr. Seccombe's diary says, Sept. 7, - "My lot lies on the east side of King Street, and Willis' his lot also". Their property would be, what is presently owned by Mrs. Ralph Hennigar and north to Pleasant Street. Mr. Seccombe also had a grant of land, five hundred acres, at Borgald's Point, Chester Basin, and was given an island near Western Shore. The island is called Seccombe's Island.

EARLY SETTLERS

For much of our knowledge of early life in Chester, we are indebted to Rev. John Seccombe for the interesting diary that he kept. Following are some accounts mentioned:

The party left Boston, Massachusetts, on Thursday, July 30, 1759, at nearly noon and arrived at Chester on the following Tuesday. The name of the vessel is not given.

Robert McGown was captain, Robert Montgomery mate.

Others on board were:

Robert McGown (captains' son)	Gregory Bass
Walter Bourk	Stephen Greenleaf
Thomas Partridge	Jonas Cutler
Capt. James Nichols	Ebenezer Cutler
Robert Melvin	Sarah Birley
John Houghton	Rev. John Seccombe
Capt. Timothy Houghton, wife and three children.	
Aron Mason, wife and five children.	
Joseph Whitmore, wife and two children.	

July 31st — Mr. Houghtons' calf jumped overboard but was saved.

Tuesday, August 4th — Saw divers islands. Arrived in Chester and anchored in a most beautiful harbor. A hot day. Many guns fired at our arrival. Went on shore and refreshed ourselves at Mr. Bridge's. Took a view of the saw-mills. At night there was an Indian dance.

Mrs. Bridge came on board ye vessel before I went on Shore — overjoyed to see me.

August 5, A.M. — Dined on pork and squash, cucumbers, cheese, etc. Fair hot day. P.M. went to Prescott's Island for gooseberries. Fried tom cod and cunners for supper, with cucumbers.

August 6, P.M. — Went to view country lots, had a most pleasant time and prospect. A fine spring up Middle River. Salmon jumped out of water. John Houghton killed three gulls at once.

August 9th — Lord's Day - Preached A.M. 2 Samuel VII, Verse 10: P.M. Luke VII, 34.

August 14th — Fair morning. Went in company with Captain Houghton, Aron Mason, Robert Melvin and John Houghton to view eastern bay, etc. Saw Prescott's lands. Viewed Phineas Willard's farm lot. Caught some perch at beaver dam (Chester Basin) and at the pond adjoining thereunto. Abundance of lilies in the pond. Dined on soused eels and salmon. Found divers good springs of water.

August 17 — Saw several Indian Wigwams at Gold River.

Sept. 3 — Dined on a pudding with raisins and plums in it, boiled pork and pigeons, carrots and Spanish potatoes, beans, squash, cucumbers, new cheese, boiled corn, good claret and beer, currant jelly, etc.

Sept. 7 — Mr. Melvin and Mr. Houghton caught a salmon in Middle River with their hands.

Sept. 16 — Paul Labrador, an Indian, brought five partridges to Mr. Bridge's and lately killed four moose and two bears; brought also dried meat and tallow. Indian squaws brought mink skins and a large bear skin, and sold them for a quart of wine.

Oct. 17 — Up Middle River and Gold River. Saw two wigwams and Indians and apple trees.

In the summer of 1760, also 1761, ships came from New England en-route to the Grand Banks to fish. They stopped at different places along the coast including Chester, to leave families and a few men to help with building houses and clearing land. These families and those that came earlier brought furniture and supplies with them, also some animals, as indicated by Mr. Houghton's calf. The story of this calf has been a favorite with children through all the succeeding years.

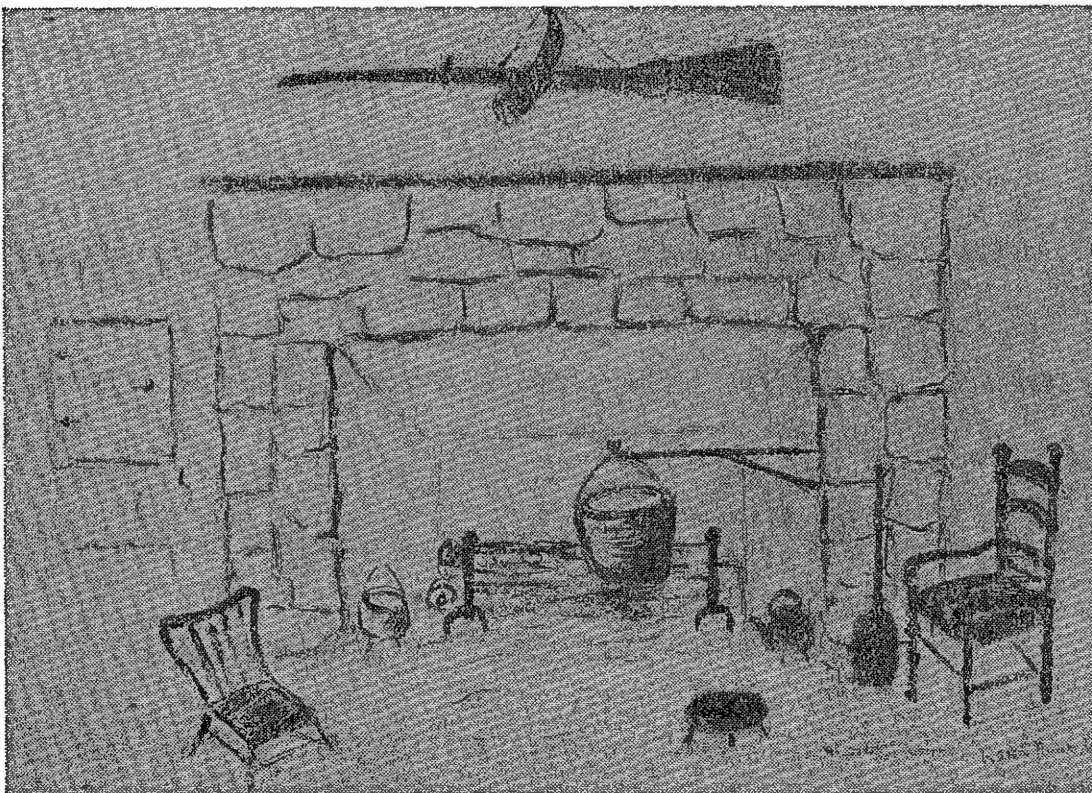
In 1761 — £30 was granted to aid in the conveyance of settlers to Chester'.

The settlers, in addition to bringing furniture, spinning wheels, looms and farming implements, lumber, shingles and glass, etc. came armed with fortitude to meet the challenge they had accepted. They were resourceful, thrifty, generous and lived by the Golden Rule.

Clearings had to be made before they could build a home as all the land was a forest, except clearings that had been made by the first settlers. They soon discovered that the terrain was rugged and that there were as many rocks as there were trees. The rocks were pushed aside, many of them were huge, and they were used for house foundations, cellar walls, chimney bases, stone steps and stone walls, others were used to line wells. In those days several families would get water from one well. Six or more of these public wells are still in use.

'Page 261, DesBrisay's History

The original of Mr. Seccombe's Diary is in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.



The houses were frame houses built in Cape Cod style. The ground floor was usually large, very often with five rooms. The chimney was built from the cellar to the roof, in the center of the house. This gave the house good support and allowed space for fire places. The houses were well built, very often birch bark was used between the wall boards and clap boards, the roof was shingled. There were no stoves; in the kitchen there was a huge fire place with a crane in it and a bake oven in the chimney next to the fire place. Since there was an abundance of wood it was used for fuel.

In case you are puzzled about the crane, it is the swinging strong arm on which the pots and kettles were hung for cooking. The pots and kettles were made of iron and were heavy.

The kitchen was truly the family room, in those days and usually the largest room in the house. Having read parts of Mr. Seccombe's diary we know the women were skilled in the art of culinary. When winter came the shelves were well stocked with jam, preserved crab apple and preserved pumpkin were special favorites.

In the cellar were tubs of pickled fish, pork and meat, also crocks of pickled beans and cucumbers. They had mince meat and some folks made dandelion wine, raspberry wine also blueberry wine. After the frost came they would hang meat in a shed to freeze so they could have fresh meat for a change.

Their furniture was usually home-made; there was always someone who could make plain furniture. Every one had a few chests, chests of drawers and a settee. Sometimes the chair seats were made of rushes, carefully dried, treated and woven. Brooms were home-made.

There were no mattresses. Instead of mattresses they had straw sacks. The women made white cases and they were filled with straw. Usually the straw sack was covered with a feather bed.

They had tables, one small table was called the Bible table, nothing was placed on it except the Bible. The Bible was very precious to our ancestors; they read it diligently. They had very little reading material.

Since they were contemporaries of Benjamin Franklyn it is possible that some folks brought copies of Richard's Almanac with them. The following are familiar quotations of Benjamin Franklyn, found in Richard's Almanac:

"Never leave that till to-morrow, which you can do to-day."

"Three may keep a secret, if two are dead."

Man works from sun to sun, woman's work is never done. Anonymous.

Since most folks worked by candle light after dark, they went to bed early and went to work early in the mornings. Both men and women had to work hard or fail; their courage would not acknowledge failure.

The New England women did not work outside the house, except care for the hens and ducks and have a kitchen garden and flowers. They, in addition to the house work, did weaving, sewing, knitting, spinning, mat hooking, also made candles and soap.

BRIDE'S DOWERY

In days gone by
When a lad and a maid were wed,
It was the custom of the times
For the parents of the bride,
To give their darling daughter,
Her linens and a bed,
A churn and a cow
To provide butter for their bread.

If the men were fishermen they would knit their nets in the winter and tan them in the spring. Every man had a work shop. If he tired of splitting wood there was always work in his workshop.

The neighbors helped each other, they had barn raisings and chopping parties; at the same time the women would have a hooking party or a quilting party, followed by a delicious supper and a pleasant evening. If they had a melodian, a violin or a mouth organ they had music, sometimes a dance. They liked singing and would have singing school in the evenings, sometimes they had nothing more than a tuning fork to set the pitch.

They worked hard six days of the week; on Sunday they did very little work and went to church. Of course the animals were fed and given water. Everyone tried hard to be good but sometimes little boys strayed away and got into mischief; maybe he tore his pants or fell into the brook or had a fight with his cousin. Everyone had Sunday clothes and wore them to church.

All the clothes were home-made; in the winter the men and children wore mocassins made from moose skins. The mocassins were frequently greased with melted fat to keep them soft and make them wear longer.

We have mentioned little boys so, we must not forget the little girls. The children played around home, everyone had a swing, a seesaw (tilt) and a ball or two. The balls were home-made, usually made by winding ravelled yarn on a piece of cork. When the desired size was attained, the ball was sewn with strong cord to keep the yarn in place, then it was covered with leather. The shoe-maker sewed the leather covering. There were wax dolls and rag dolls, the wax dolls were usually kept in a drawer and looked at on special occasions, they were beautiful and easily defaced. The rag dolls were made to play with and Grandfather made a cradle for the doll. Of course, little girls were expected to rock the baby while the older girls churned the butter.

The settlers were sometimes faced with grave problems. Scarlet fever, diphtheria and pneumonia claimed the lives of many children. The brave parents would say "It was God's Will" and with dignity carry on.

There were no drug stores so they had home remedies. For a bad cold, warm goose fat was rubbed on the neck and chest; if this did not cure, then,

a poultice of lard and mustard was applied; all this and a week in bed usually put the patient on his feet. When the patient was (up around) he took cough medicine made from molasses and onions. It was made by boiling molasses, sliced onions and butter, left on the back of the stove and taken every hour. Mutton tallow was used extensively as hand lotion, especially in winter when folks had chapped hands; it really heals, just don't smell it.

Earth was applied to a sting; if that did not help, a piece of salt fat pork was used as a poultice. That was a sure cure.

The barn was a very important building to the land owners. Nearly every family had a cow and an ox, maybe a pair of oxen, a horse and a pig or two. All this meant a cat or cats to keep the mice away. A dog was also a necessity; he helped find the cow if she strayed away, sounded an alarm if a fox worried the sheep and also served as companion to the children.

The boys had great pride **about** the stock and learned at an early age to care for the animals and do barn work.

If the dog barked louder than usual and rushed to the house in great concern, and the horse suddenly neighed fiercely and pounded his stall, the Father of the family knew there was a bear on the prowl. He reached for the gun. Father's aim was sure, the bear died and his pelt made a beautiful rug for the floor.

CHESTER 1764.

Having gone thus far in our history we are convinced that the "Early Settlers were workers." As further proof we quote the following: "In 1764 Admiral Colville, who was then the Commander in Chief at Halifax, was ordered by the Admiralty to buy six schooners." He bought two at Halifax, but "one built last fall at a new settlement of the Province called Chester, 12 leagues to the westward of Halifax, and not less than a fortnight, I expect another schooner that is ready to be launched in the same place will complete the number to six."

From records submitted by Admiral Pullen.

In 1760, Lt. Governor Belcher, in writing to the Lords of Trade and Plantation said "That persons of considerable substance, were engaged in the township."

DesBrisay's History, Page 261.

CHESTER SETTLERS THAT CAME FROM NEW ENGLAND CAME FROM THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

Boston
Pembroke

Piscatagua
Rochester

Marlborough
Casco Bay
Stoughton
Kingston
Plymtown
Concord

Littleton
Hanover
Shrewsbury
Lexington
Lancaster
Middleburg

NAMES OF PEOPLE THAT CAME FROM LUNENBURG:

Dauphinee
Scweinheimer
Meichszner
Masson
Meisner
Landz (Lantz)
Vienot
Backman
Zinck
Fehder
Mosser

Boutilier
Nass
Mosher
Morash
Eisenhauer
Schner
Mehder
Etin Marriet
Oxner
Hilchie

RETURN OF SETTLERS AT CHESTER, IN 1783

NAME	WHEN SETTLED	FAMILY	
		MALES	FEMALES
Bradshaw, Mrs. Abraham	1762	1	2
Bradshaw, John	1782	1	—
Bradshaw, Joseph	1768	3	1
Bradshaw, William	1781	1	2
Butler, James	1765	2	2
Collicutt, George	1760	4	6
Crocker, Elijah	1779	2	2
Cornelius, Owen	1760	2	—
Fader, Adam	1782	1	—
Fitch Ebenezer	1764	2	4
Floyd, Simon	1761	5	7
Fitch, Elijah	1763	2	1
Frail, George	1771	3	3
Floyd, Thomas	1761	3	6
Greenlaw, James	1760	3	4
Harvey, William	1760	1	3
Hawbolt, Gotleib	1782	1	3
Hatt, Henry	1762	5	3
Houghton, Mrs. Timothy	1760	8	3
Knowlton, William	1775	2	3
Lynch, Timothy	1765	5	4

Millett, George	1760	4	2
Marvels, William	1765	5	4
Moreau, Cornwallis	1782	2	5
Neasum, Ralph	1760	1	1
Neal, Henry	1765	2	3
Pulsifer, John	1778	1	2
Rudolph, Peter	1778	2	4
Vaughan, Anthony	1772	5	2
Vaughan, Daniel	1772	6	3
Vaughan, John	1768	3	7
Webber, James	1760	4	5

The number of acres cultivated by them was 414½

34	Dwelling Houses
25	Barns
1	Blacksmith Shop (Timothy Lynch)
2	Saw Mills
230,000	Feet of Lumber
38	Oxen
72	Cows
54	Heifers & Steers
173	Sheep
49	Hogs

Produce consisted of Wheat, Barley, Oats, Corn, Peas, Potatoes and Hay.

The list of settlers, at Chester township, 1783, shows that families arrived intermittently after 1760 - 1783.

Following are those of the earliest settlers whose descendants are presently living here.

George Millett arrived in 1760; his grant of land was three hundred acres. He and his family were the first settlers at Chester Grant. Later other families came there; their names are Hennigar, Whalan and Rafuse. Through the years they have all made a good living at farming, lumbering and cooperage. Two beautiful lakes at Chester Grant are Millett Lake and Hennigar Lake.

Descendants of the above mentioned families are living there and in this area. Descendants of George Millett are Sheldon Millett, Chester Grant; Frank Millett, Lower Grant Road and Ellis Millett, Robinson's Corner.

George Collicutt arrived in 1760 and settled on Windsor Road. Several of his descendants are living there and in this area, namely Lester Collicutt and Foster Collicutt live at Robinson's Corner. Louis R. Collicutt, Herbert Collicutt and Neil Collicutt live at Marriott's Cove. Albert Collicutt, Ambrose Collicutt and Burleigh Collicutt live at Chester.

James Greenlaw arrived in 1760, his descendants, Charles Greenlaw and his son Earle Greenlaw live at Marriott's Cove.

James Webber arrived in 1760 and settled on Windsor Road, his descendants living in this area are many. His grant was five hundred acres.

Owen Cornelius arrived in 1760, he was a tanner and settled in the village, where he worked at his trade. Several of his descendants live in Chester.

Gotleib Hawboldt arrived in 1782, several of his descendants live here.

Adam Fader arrived in 1782, there are several families of the Fader name living in the village of Chester. Adam Fader settled on Walker's Hill, the property now called Hennigar's Farm.

John Vaughn arrived in 1768. He received a grant of five hundred acres. Anthony Vaughn and Daniel Vaughn arrived in 1772. There are several families by the name of Vaughn presently living at Western Shore. Other well known names living at Western Shore are: Vienot, Swinamer, Zwicker, Young, Stevens, Sawler, Rafuse, Mosher, Lantz, Adams, Hatt, Hiltz, Fralic, Frank, DeMont, Dorey, Conrad, Carver, Burge, Boutilier and Barkhouse.

The population of Western Shore and Gold River combined equals that of Chester. This is a busy and prosperous area. There are three churches there and they have a very good Elementary School.

Names not found in the early list probably came here from Halifax, Windsor and Lunenburg. Names found at East River are Boutilier, Cook, Fleet, Harnish, Langille, Lohnes, Meisner, Miller, Mosher, Nauss, Webster, Whiting, Wright and Melvin.

Josph Whitford, one of the first settlers of East River received a grant of one hundred acres.

G. P. Zinck received a grant of ninety-five acres.

Tobias Cook received a grant of one hundred acres.

J. N. Hilchie received a grant of seventy acres.

David C. Moland received a grant of one hundred acres.

Presently a large plant for the production of hardboard is being constructed at East River.

The Anil Canada Limited, hardboard plant at East River, will officially open sometime in June, 1967.

*Marcha Collicutt & Heather
Patricia Shepherd. fits at Casa Blanca 1968*

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EARLY SETTLEMENTS

Marriott's Cove is a pretty little village about two and a half miles from Chester. It was first settled by people of the following names: Marriott, hence the name, Boutilier, Dauphinee, Bezanson, Pulsifer, Hiltz, Melvin. Later we find the names Webber, Millett, Hawboldt, Corkum, Eisenhauer, Hutt, Stevens, Brown, Nass, Collicutt and Countway.

About 1810 John Brown built two brigs at Western Shore and one at Marriott's Cove.

In 1813 Jacob Millett (age 37 years) bought his farm at Marriott's Cove from Jonathan Prescott for £25. This was probably Jonathan Prescott Jr. as the doctor died in 1807.

This property was in the Millett family for four generations. The property was sold to Ralph Dauphinee but Mrs. Brenton Millett retained a small part of it, on which she has her summer cottage. Clifford Maddeford owns the Jacob Millett house.

In the early part of 1900 several schooners sailed out of Marriott's Cove. In 1906 Ernest Boutilier and his brother Ewart bought the schooner Vesta Pearl. For a few years this schooner went to the Grand Banks with a crew for fishing.

In 1903 Victor Boutilier bought the schooner J. Croft; he and his brother Goldbourne sailed it as a coasting vessel. That is what they called a vessel that carried freight along the coast. In 1911 the schooner was sold and they established a laundry in Chester.

In 1909 Oscar Dauphinee and Clifford Hiltz bought the schooner Annie Louise. They used it as a coasting vessel; the ports of call for these schooners would be chiefly along the south coast between Halifax and Yarmouth.

Around this time Sawyer Hiltz bought his schooner Ella D. It too, was used as a coasting vessel.

These vessels would go to Prince Edward Island in the fall and get loads of vegetables; they brought oysters to anyone that gave them an order for some. When three or four vessels sailed from the Cove several men were thus employed. When World War I came this business weakened. As the young men enlisted in military service the coasting business ceased to operate. You simply can't sail a ship without a crew.

From 1908 - 1913 Marriott's Cove had a banner Sunday School. It was undenominational, every child of school age was registered and all the youth of the village came to the Bible Class. The average attendance was sixty-five. The quarterlies and primary picture roll were bought from David C. Cook Publishing Company, Elgin Illinois, U.S.A. They had a good library and every young teen-ager read the "Alger Books". Ormand Hawboldt, superintendent, Avery Hawboldt, organist, Miss Ida Pulsifer, primary teacher, Ormand Hawboldt, intermediate teacher, Miss Winifred Dauphinee, junior girls teacher, Avery Hawboldt, junior boys teacher, Mrs. Rupert Millett, Bible class teacher.

*Marcha - Chester Basin R.R.I.
Lunenburg Co. N.C.*

The families on the east side of the village went to the Chester churches, the families on the west side of the village went to the Chester Basin churches.

Marriott's Cove is bounded on the west by Middle River.

Early in 1800 Francis Countway and John Countway purchased property on Middle River from Marriott. Further up the river it was settled by Bezansons. The Countway men built a mill, one part of the mill was a saw mill, the other part was a grist mill. The latter was the only mill of its kind in the area so it was a very busy place after harvest time. The saw mill was in operation through three generations of the Countway family.

Farther up the river William Pulsifer had a mill, he sawed barrel staves as well as regular lumber. This began around 1850, his sons Albert Pulsifer and Freeman Pulsifer carried on until they were old men.

From 1907 - 1912 Rupert Millett operated a saw mill near the mouth of the river. Most of the lumber from this mill went to foreign ports. Great excitement was in the village when a "Four-Master" called to get a load of lumber. The lumber was floated down the river to the mill, this operation was called "River-driving," very exciting to watch. Men employed there were, Grant Stevens, Otis Hatt, Creighton Hutt, Owen Zwicker, Renford Countway, Hugh Mosher, David DeMille, John Clinton, Wesley Hiltz, John Edmonds, (sawyer).

Early in 1900 George Benzanson did ship building near the mouth of the Middle River. He built several ships, his pride and joy was the Dictator.

Another well known mill is found on Bezanson Lake, Windsor Road, four miles from Robinson's Corner. About 1825 a man named Marriott built and operated a mill on this lake for several years; he had settled earlier at Marriott's Cove. Due to advancing years he sold his mill to Joseph Lantz. Later Joseph Lantz decided to move to New Germany and he sold the mill to Silas Corkum, Marriott's Cove. Mr. Corkum was one of the early school teachers. This mill has been in the Corkum family for three generations. Mr. Corkum, who travelled on horse back, worked there until he was an old man. When he died his son Edward became the proprietor until his death in 1960. Edward's son Ivan is the present owner of Corkum's Mill. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1917. It was then rebuilt and modernized.

A well known school teacher of this area was Inez Corkum, daughter of Silas Corkum and his wife Casandra (Millett) Corkum. Miss Corkum died in 1959.

Marriott's Cove had a Post Office for exactly one hundred years. The house that Ralph Dauphinee owns was built by Benjamin Millett in 1859. One large room in this house was used as a country store and post office.

The post office was opened June 1, 1859, and Mrs. Benjamin Millett was the post-mistress until Rupert Millett bought the property from his father. His first wife, Amy Millett, acted as post-mistress until her death. Later,

the second wife, Georgina Millett, carried on as post-mistress until May 31, 1922. The post office had then been in the Millett family for sixty-three years.

Mrs. Gordon Hiltz, on June 1, 1922, became the new post-mistress, which appointment she held for exactly thirty-seven years. Rural Route service began June 1, 1959.

Marriott's Cove Yacht Builders have been building boats for several years. Irving Hamilton, Proprietor.

The little village has a splendid war record. In World War I nearly every family was represented on the "Front-line". The following made the Supreme Sacrifice:

Creighton Hutt
Harris Meisner
James Dauphinee
Rodrey Lantz

The response was also good in World War II. During each war the women worked diligently for Red Cross.

The Marriott's Cove War Veterans belong to the F. E. Butler Branch, Canadian Legion, Chester.

Robinson's Corner: it is here that we have a road junction. Route No. 3 makes an abrupt turn west, en-route to Mahone Bay. The highway northward is Windsor Road.

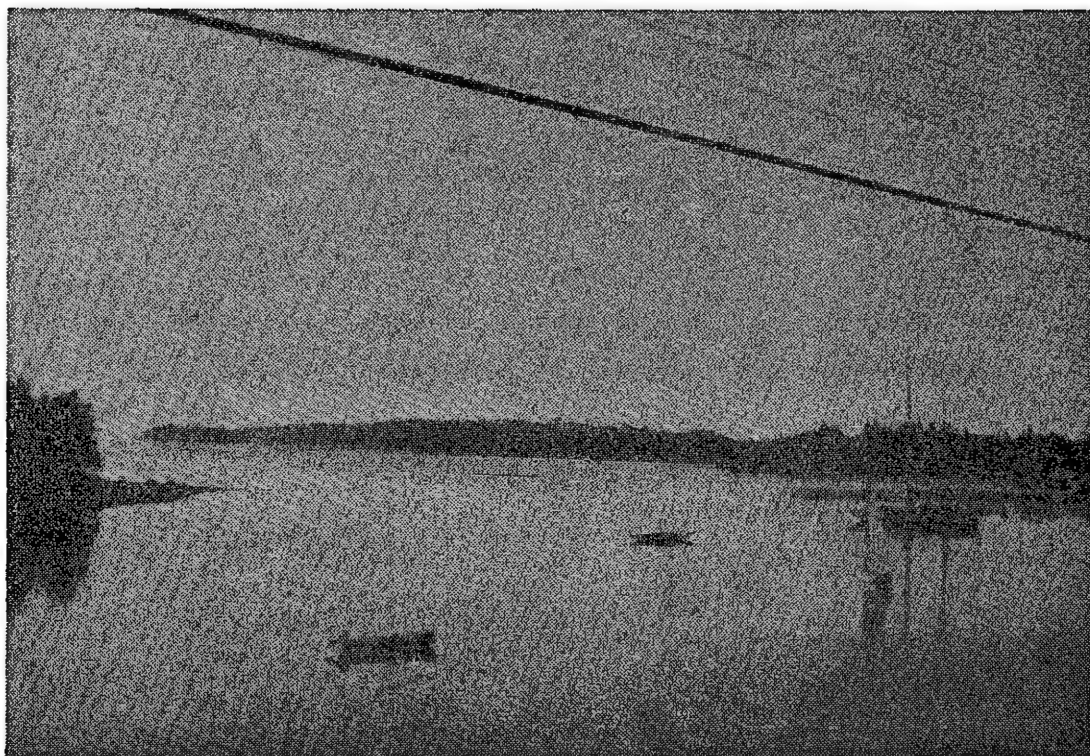
The Milton E. Counteway Grocery Store is here, a modern well equipped store. We also have the L. W. Nauss Lumber and Building Supplies. Mrs. Nauss, prior to her marriage, was Ida Hawboldt, well known school teacher.

In World War I William Pulsifer made the Supreme Sacrifice.

(Mrs. F. R.) Grace Nauss

CHESTER BASIN

Travelling westward from Halifax along the scenic South Shore, a distance of some 50 miles, one enters the picturesque village of Chester Basin, with a land-locked harbour, situated at the head of beautiful Mahone Bay. This village was first settled in 1760 by New Englanders who came intermittently from 1760-1783. Among these first settlers were David Walsh, Robert Clarke, Alonzo Clark, David Crandall and Daniel Dimock. Loyalists began coming in 1784. Disbanded British soldiers came from 1805-1816. The land on the east side of Gold River was given to Greenlaw and south of this property a grant was given to Rev. John Seccombe, which extended from



the south side of the highway to the seashore. Near Middle River, grants were received by Swallow, Eldridge and DeMille. Along Sherbrook Road (now New Ross Road) Clinton, Cooney, and Hatt settled. After the settling in Lunenburg of the Foreign Protestants, Germans, Swiss, and French in 1753, some of these settlers became dissatisfied and moved on to various parts of the county; a number of them coming to Chester Basin to take up land that had not been worked by the original grantees. Among these were Borgald, Eisner, Wagner, Sellers, Rafuse and Backman. As the country opened up we encountered such names as Corkum, Countway, Hennigar, Oxner and Croft, who purchased land from the original grantees and set up farms and established various businesses in the community.

Shipbuilding was carried on for a number of years at Borgald's Point, where many boats and schooners were constructed. The last recorded sea-going three master was built and launched in 1901 and was called The Maple Leaf.

In 1861 Daniel Dimock and David Whitford discovered gold along Gold River. Miners came from various parts of Canada and The United States. Roads were built along the river, mining machinery was moved in, and the village flourished with gold fever, which continued for many years afterwards.

Lumbering, barrel-making and the export of cord and other woods, has always been a major industry. In later years the manufacture of fish pails and the operation of various types of mills have stabilized the economy.

At one time there was a large lime kiln, situated at Beaver Dam, with

the raw product, limestone, being brought in from Blandford, Peninsula and Prospect. The finished product was barreled and shipped by schooner to Boston, where, along with cord wood and fish, it was traded for sugar, flour, cloth, molasses, rum, and other staple necessities required by the settlers.

Education and Religion were not neglected by these settlers and the first recorded religious service was carried on by Rev. Seccombe, in a house on the property which is now owned by Leslie Backman. The present Anglican Church was erected in 1884, and was known as St. James Anglican Church. The land was purchased for \$15.00 from E. Curren Smith and his wife Annie.

David Crandall was in charge of the Military Building, which was situated on the property where the Baptist Church now stands. As conditions improved, the militia was no longer required for the protection of the settlers. The building and property were given to the Baptist denomination and became known as the Aeonon Chapel. The present fine edifice, which was constructed in 1911 on this same property, is still known as Aeonon United Baptist Church.

In the 1760's David Crandall donated a section of land on the South West corner of the present Baptist Church property, to be used as a school site. A one-room building was erected there for this purpose. Three children sat on each wooden bench and worked at a wooden desk. As the population increased, it was found necessary to add a second room and this building was used continually until 1910. Two of the teachers who have passed on in recent years and who were members of the staff of this school, were the late Dr. B. A. Hennigar, Chester Basin, and the late Mrs. Georgina Millett, Chester, (nee Morgan of Liverpool). By 1910, due to overcrowding, it was found necessary to build a new and more modern, larger school. A spacious four-room building, with office and laboratories was constructed. A most up-to-date building for that time and one which showed great foresight by our forefathers. Unfortunately, this building was destroyed in a spectacular fire on Dec. 21, 1955. This necessitated construction of a fine new Elementary School, with six classrooms and all modern facilities, to serve not only pupils of Chester Basin, but the surrounding communities of Beech Hill, Chester Grant, Middle River, Marriott's Cove and Robinson's Corner.

Situated as Chester Basin is, along the seacoast, the early settlers turned to the sea for part of their livelihood. As well as the shore boats, vessels were constructed to sail to the Grand Banks and other fishing grounds, for the harvest of the sea. Casper Oxner who moved here from the Lunenburg District, operated a fish curing and processing plant at Borgald's Point, as well as a General Store in the village. During the notorious Tidal Wave of October 12, 1871, his fish plant and large quantities of fish were carried away. The tide rose so high that a schooner was carried across the main highway and came to rest in the field, behind what is now Esten Hiltz' garage. The story tellers, tell "us" of the present generation, that this same gentleman was magistrate of the district. When feuding neighbours came before him with their cases of law, he settled them with the wisdom of Solomon; charging each party with \$2.00 and telling them to fight it out on the way home.

One of the many stories told and retold, during the years, concerns a gentleman of the village who had been courting a girl for some years and they picked the unfortunate time of a cold wintry February evening for their wedding. Our hero arrived home from the woods after a hard day's work in a driving sleet and rain storm. He laid on a good fire in the kitchen stove, cooked his supper, filled his pipe, put his feet on the oven door, and in his armchair, he relaxed. Meanwhile, at the home of the bride-to-be, all was excitement. The bride in her lovely satin dress, with all the trimmings; the bridal party and the guests arrived at the church; the preacher came in. Everybody waited for "our hero", the groom. The appointed hour came and went; the bride-to-be dabbed her eyes with her lace handkerchief, while the preacher walked back and forth and the guests got restless. Finally, some of the younger men harnessed a horse, drove the several miles to the home of the groom-to-be. Arriving there, they found him sitting comfortably, unshaven, still clad in his wood's man's clothes. When asked if he did not know that this was his wedding night he replied, "The weather being so dirty, I didn't think they'd have it."

Among the many islands guarding the entrance to our fine harbour, there is one which was granted to the Rev. Mr. Seccombe and still bears his name on the charts. This reverend gentleman, before he passed on to his just reward, made his will in the form of a poem, as recorded in the History of Lunenburg County, by DesBrisay. The following are two of the thirteen verses.

"To my dear wife,
My joy and life,
I freely now do give her
My whole estate
With all my plate —
Being just about to leave her.

My tub of soap,
A long cast rope,
A frying pan and kettle,
An ashes pail,
A threshing flail
An iron wedge and beetle."

Trade and Industry flourished from the earliest settlement of the village. Numerous saw mills, grist mills, shingle mills, and others were located on practically every stream. The products of these mills were exported to the four corners of the world.

Following in his father's footsteps, Levi Oxner conducted a general mercantile business; having a large store and wharf, located at the head of the harbour. When he passed on, the business was continued by his two sons under the name of M. and H. Oxner. Later M. Oxner's share was taken over by R. S. Hennigar. During the first world war, these gentlemen revived the Shipbuilding Industry, and many fine schooners were launched from the ship yards. Several three and four masted schooners were built. The last ship to be constructed at Chester Basin was a fine fishing schooner, which

was launched in 1922, bearing the name of W. C. Kennedy.

Mr. Keddy operated a general store and trading business for a number of years, later selling this enterprise to the late Capt. Shatford, who moved here from Peggy's Cove. W. E. Corkum operated a general store on the main highway, which now has grown into a modern groceteria, under the name of B. S. Corkum. Fish Pail Manufacturing, a huge strawberry farm and processing complex, have been developed by Mr. Corkum and Son.

O. R. Corkum ran a large general store for many years, which is now carried on by his son, R. O. Corkum, in addition to a large Poultry and Egg farm and an extensive Strawberry Farm and processing plant.

Capt. Lorne Oxner, after many years at sea, retired from that occupation, and operated a general store and lumbering business which later was expanded by his son Moyle, into a modern barrel producing factory equipped with the latest machinery, to eliminate much of the handwork, to provide containers for the packing of fish. This business is presently carried on by Capt. Oxner's grandson, Eric Countway, under the name of Moyle I. Oxner Limited. N. I. Countway operated a general store and trading business at Middle River until forced to retire, due to age. K. A. Countway & Sons operate a woodworking plant, turning out doors, sashes, etc.

During both world wars many of the young people enlisted and served in all parts of the world. Fortunately, all returned from the First World War, with the exception of Lawrence Corbin, and in the Second World War, Everett Borgald. The Canadian Legion has honored Everett with the name, Everett Branch of the Canadian Legion. They have also taken over the Community Hall and established a Playground and Skating Rink, where a very fine monument has been erected, honoring those who have "served." They presently sponsor Cubs, Scouts and Girl Guides, which are a credit to the community.

During the Battle of the Nile in 1798, Thomas Croft of England was awarded a medal — a Tribute of Regard, from Alex. Davison, St. James Square. "Rear Admiral Lord Nelson," is printed on one side; a picture of the fleet on the other. Upon his discharge from the Navy, Thomas Croft and his brother Conrad came to Chester Basin and settled on what is now known as Croft's Hill. A direct descendant of Thomas Croft proudly owns this medal today.

The prosperity of this community is admired by tourists as well as residents. Many stop to view the beautiful scenery and the graceful yachts skimming the harbour waters. The recent development of Hume's Island and Marvin's Island, the construction of causeways to both Islands and the erection of many homes and cottages have added to the attractiveness of the village. Future generations may well say, "They who built, built well."

Mrs. (C. H.) Ruth Oxner

WINDSOR ROAD

We learn from the Payzant story that the Indians had a trail from Chester to Windsor before the New England settlers came; consequently we have the Windsor Road. It was along this road that several of the New Englanders settled, also a few families that later came from Lunenburg. Names found there were Collicutt, Corkum, Frank, Kaizer, Larder, Melvin, Vaughn, Webber and Church. Of these names only Collicutt, Corkum, Church and Kaizer are to be found there today.

Scotch Cove, now called East Chester, two miles east of the village was originally settled by John Hutchinson, John Duncan, Thomas Thompson, James Hume and others, most of whom came from Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland. Others came later, Osbourne Morash, Josephus Henneberry, James Corkum, George Corkum, Ebenezer Frail, George Moland and D. C. Moland.

PRIVATEERS

✓ Capt. Prescott knew all the people well and had them trained to meet any emergency. When the settlers were beginning to enjoy life, the villages along the coast of Nova Scotia lived in constant threat of attack by the American Privateers. They robbed the people of their cattle, poultry, money and anything that they could carry.

One fine morning in June 1782 Mr. Umlah of East Chester was kidnapped from his fishing boat and forced to pilot three of the Privateers through the island dotted bay of Chester. They anchored at the entrance to the front harbor and opened fire on the little village. Captain Prescott returned fire but the powder was bad and the shot was of little effect; better ammunition was found and the second time one of the ships was struck. All three ships hastily retreated behind Nass's Point. The crews fully armed went ashore and it was feared they were planning a land attack. Seeing Captain Prescott on the opposite side of the harbor they called to him and asked permission to bury their dead. His reply was "Stack your guns and advance in front of them, then the necessary arrangements can be made." The conversation ended with an invitation to the three captains to come to Captain Prescott's home for tea. They enjoyed the hospitality of Captain Prescott until a loud knock was heard at the door and one of the Prescott sons entered and said "One hundred soldiers have just arrived from Lunenburg, where shall we billet them?" It was late in the evening and the elderly gentleman answered, "Billet them in Houghton's barn." Turning to his guests he said, "Gentlemen, I will be ready for you in the morning." This, of course, was a ruse; in any case, the captains returned to their ships.

✓ It so happened that nearly all of the men were away at this time; some had gone to sea, some were working in the woods and others were in Lunenburg. The villagers had implicit confidence in Captain Prescott, who had shared their joys and sorrows, and under his direction rallied to the defence

of their village, against overwhelming odds. We are told that one mother, Mrs. Duncan, hid her twin daughters in a puncheon while the mothers were on the march.

At this time women wore grey cloaks lined with scarlet. At day-break, when the sun shone on the eastern bay, the women were doing guard duty on Blockhouse Hill, broom sticks were substituted for rifles and they wore their cloaks "Inside Out." The privateers believed them to be well trained "Regulars" and silently stole away. Needless to say the women were pleased with their hoax as they watched the ships disappear behind the islands.

The next day, July 1, 1782 these privateers, supported by others of their kind, sacked and burned the town of Lunenburg.

The story of how the people of Chester outwitted their attackers is well told in

"THE SONG OF THE CLOAK"

It is not known how old the poem is but it was published in "The Church Observer" an Anglican church publication, in September 1897, having been copied from the Youth's Companion. The Church Observer was printed in Springhill, Nova Scotia. Miss Eva Whitford has a copy of that number.

Let us not forget that Captain Prescott was the master mind of this plot, although the poet uses the name of Mill. The poet is also mistaken in the date. Nevertheless we like the poem.

THE SONG OF THE CLOAK

Come listen, good folk, to the song of the cloak,
The cloak of the red and gray:
Hear how it saved the little town
That nestles where the hills slope down
To deep Chester Bay.

'Twas in times of strife far unlike the life
That Chester knows to-day;
The Revolution then was new,
And oft some bold New England crew
Came into Chester Bay.

Then was time of dread, for the strangers led
The flocks and herds away;
And old men raged, while women wept
For husbands strong whom battles kept
A-far from Chester Bay.

So old Captain Mill on Blockhouse Hill,
 One bright cool day in May,
 Seeing a Yankee vessel sweep
 By Tancook's Isle, whose low shores keep
 The mouth of Chester Bay.

Cried aloud in wrath: "Since this village hath
 But weak old men to say
 That Chester still shall keep her own,
 We'll man the blockhouse all alone
 For King and Chester Bay."

Even as he spoke, there suddenly broke
 From children at their play,
 A wild, shrill cry, "A privateer,"
 Echoed by voices hoarse with fear
 For peaceful Chester Bay.

From houses and stores, the people in scores
 Poured forth in their dismay;
 The old men turned to Blockhouse Hill,
 Longing for strength and old-time skill
 To guard their Chester Bay.

While the women sad — some quickly clad
 In their long, soft cloaks of gray,
 Hushing the wailing children, fled
 To woods beyond the harbors head,
 The head of Chester Bay.

As into this throng, with its purpose strong,
 The Captain made his way,
 His quick eye saw the linings red
 Of the women's cloaks as on they sped
 Away from Chester Bay.

And his face grew bright with a sudden light;—
 His words were almost gay:
 "Quick, quick, good women, turn your cloaks,
 Here's a chance for a right good hoax,
 To aid our Chester Bay.

The women obeyed; As they stood arrayed
 In red instead of gray,
 The Captain spoke, — and up and down
 They bore a message through the town
 That lies by Chester Bay.

Then to Blockhouse Hill strode old Captain Mill,
 And where the cannon lay,
 He helped the few old men and weak

To load the weapon that should speak
For lovely Chester Bay.

While from every street came the sound of feet
From squads, in scarlet gay,
Of women marching calm and still
Along the shore and up the hill
That guards blue Chester Bay.

Then the cannon spoke, and the water broke
Before the ship in spray,
As — sails half furled, the long-boat manned —
Swiftly she glided toward the land,
The point in Chester Bay.

Oh, but could it be that the crew did see
The brilliant red array?
The sails half-furled, fast fluttered out,
With helm hard down she came about,
The ship in Chester Bay.

"Now God be praised," and the Captain raised
His hands in solemn way,
"The Yankees think the Red-coats here,
Every woman a grenadier,
And saved is Chester Bay."

'Twas just as he said, for with sails outspread
The vessel stood away
But e'er another sun went down,
Burnt and sacked was Lunenburg town,
Across still Chester Bay.

Now ended, good folk, is the song of the cloak,
The cloak of red and gray,
'Twas thus it saved the little town
That nestles where the hills slope down
To deep blue Chester Bay.

Geo. T. Baker.

LOYALISTS

"A General Description of Nova Scotia," printed at the Royal Acadian School, Halifax, says: "In 1784 a few Loyalists families came to Chester." Of these families only a few stayed here, namely: Franklin G. Etter, John Martin, Charles Lot Church and others.

Franklin G. Etter was a glass manufacturer when he lived in Massachusetts and subsequently a Lieutenant in the British army. On his arrival at Chester he was appointed a Justice of the Peace and was considered a most useful and worthy man. One of his eight daughters was Mrs. Amos Lovett of the well known Lovett House. His son Daniel Etter was a wheelwright.

John Martin was a close friend of Franklin Etter. He was keenly interested in the affairs of the Township. The name Martin has been a christian name in this community for many years. Mrs. Martin died in 1797.

Charles Lot Church was the son of Charles Church and was born on Rhode Island (then a British colony) March 13, 1777. He went with the Loyalists to Shelburne in 1783; from there he moved to Dover, Halifax County and subsequently to Chester, where he married Hannah Millett, granddaughter of Timothy Houghton. They settled on Windsor Road, ten and a half miles from the village of Chester. Mr. Church was elected in 1820 a member of the House of Assembly and travelled through ten counties that he might acquaint himself with the needs of the people. He was a clever man and a great reader. He was very patriotic and was highly applauded by the people. "As honest as Lot Church" passed into a proverb. He died April 14, 1864, in his eighty-eighth year. He had five sons and eight daughters.

Mrs. Church died less than ten months later, age eighty-two years.

LAST GROUP OF SETTLERS

A group of settlers arriving early in 1800 are David Evans, born in Swansea, Wales, came to Chester in 1805. George Bethune Mitchell and Sergeant Henry Morgan 1816. Sergeant Henry Morgan, 5th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

He received his discharge at Halifax, August 1, 1816, having served upward of twenty-two years. He petitioned, jointly with James Walker, for a land grant; the grant was given December 28, 1816.

(Copied from Land Grant Files Public Archives, Halifax, N. S.)

Henry Morgan married Margaret Martin Etter October 17, 1816. This well versed man brought much of value to his chosen land. His descendants followed the sea, built ships and boats and were influential in other ways. His son Joseph C. Morgan built several ships at Chester and Mahone Bay. He built Brigantine Faugh-a-Ballagh, launched in 1869.

While the name of Morgan is not found here now, Henry Morgan's daughters married here. Margaret Smith Morgan married Phillip Barkhouse, from this line there are many descendants. Another daughter was Mrs. Hilchie. Consequently the following are Morgan descendants; The

Barkhouse families, Hilchie Bros., Maurice L. Zinck, M.L.A., also his sisters and brothers, Mrs. Franklin Nauss daughter of Mrs. Georgina (Morgan) Millett is another descendant. The late Dr. Austin A. Zinck, native of East Chester and well-known Lutheran clergyman, was also a descendant.

(Mrs. F. R.) Grace Nauss.

Acknowledgment

I would like to say "Thank You" to the several people who so patiently supplied me with material for my part of our story.

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Miss Leta Brown

F. R. Nauss

Miss Mary Allison Prescott, Port Williams, Nova Scotia

Mrs. David Moland

Mrs. Stanley Whitford

Miss Mabel Mitchell

Mr. Ernest Rothwell

Mr. George Hutt, Marriott's Cove

Mrs. Gordon Hiltz, Marriott's Cove

Mrs. O. B. Smith, Lunenburg.

(Mrs. F. R.) Grace Nauss.

COMMUNICATIONS

by Mary E. Hume

WATERWAYS

In 1759 a group of prospective settlers from New England came to Nova Scotia's south shore and found, sheltered in the pocket of Mahone Bay, a tongue of land running seaward. This was the site of one of the townships planned by the Governor of Nova Scotia, Charles Lawrence, and was to become the settlement of Chester.

Both the east and west side of this tongue of land offered a good harbour. However, the east side seemed to be the chosen place for early settlement. This area became known as the Front Harbour and along the shoreline wharves and stores were built.

Travel by water was the first means of communication. Rev. John Secombe's journal records: "1759 Oct. 12th Mr. Bridge came from Halifax to Chester in six hours." Mr. Bridge operated a sawmill at Chester and one would conclude that his lumber was shipped to Halifax by sailing vessel. These vessel owners would not want to return home empty of cargo, so they brought back provisions which the settlers would need and stocked the stores along the front harbour, against the time when the settlers would have need of such articles. Consequently, many owners of vessels also became merchants of the village.

A map published in 1864 shows the township plan with wharves marked along the right side of the harbour. Starting at the head of the cove and going all the way around to the neck of the peninsula, the wharves are listed as follows: Whitford, Lovett, Mitchell, Butler, Robinson Bros., Robinson and Hon. C. E. Church.

For a number of years communications by means of water played an important role in the development of Chester. Recorded in "The Diary of Adolphus Gaetz" of Lunenburg are the following statements:

"July 1855 Wedns. 18th

The brigtn "Boston Lady" from Chester bound to Boston, which put in here on Monday on account of fog, sails again today.

Sept 1855 Tuesd 11th

The brigtn "Boston Lady" from Chester arrived today with stoves and other goods for different persons in this town.

Sept 1856 Thursday 4th

A regatta came off at Chester, the first of its kind that has been attempted in this country. A number of boats were entered and ran different races for prizes. Fireworks, illumination, torch light processions and Balls closed the days entertainment.

Sept 5th 1860

Today a regatta came off at Chester, the pleasures of the day were enhanced by a large party consisting of one-hundred and fifty, having arrived there in the steamer "Neptune" from Halifax and accompanied by the city band. A number of boat races took place."

As the years passed from the time of the landing of the settlers in 1759, the population of the village increased. The western harbour, now called the Back Harbour, became more settled, especially on the arable hills running up from the shore line. At the foot of his particular tract of land the farmer built a wharf and moored his boat in the sheltered cove. This was his means of communicating with friends and relatives who lived along the indented coastline and on nearby islands.

In later years, the summer residents purchased land here and built for themselves beautiful summer homes. They moored in this snug harbour, the smart trim yachts and comfortable cruisers that gave them joyful pleasure during their vacations in Chester. To this year 1966, each summer has

found sailing boats and cabin cruisers, registered in distant places, laying too, in these waters, sometimes seeking shelter from a rough Atlantic storm, other times for a pleasant holiday. Here the boat men mingle with local and other visiting boat owners, communicating, each with the other, because of their common interest, that of travel by water.

At the tip of the tongue of land known as Chester, is a peninsula about one quarter of a mile long, that separates the Front Harbour and the Back Harbour. At the narrow neck joining these two pieces of land, a small canal or passage way for boats was constructed in 1864-1865. A bridge over the canal water gave a shorter approach by boat to those wishing to use either harbour. One hundred years later in 1965 a deeper and wider canal and bridge was constructed.

The peninsula was called Freda's Peninsula because the land was owned and settled by families of that name. In later years, wealthy American visitors bought land here also, so as to enjoy the water that surrounds it. Here was swimming, sailing and fishing close at hand.

One of the first summer families to come to Chester was the Wisters of Philadelphia in the year of 1885. This family had purchased their property for a summer home on Blockhouse Hill. In those days they travelled from U.S.A. to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia by boat, then by train to Middleton, from there by the Nictaux and Atlantic Railway to Mahone Bay, thence by steamer "Carrie" to Chester. The "Carrie" ran until 1908.

To accomodate tourists during the summer months, there was at one time, communications with Halifax, by the boat "Bridgewater".

ROADS

In 1776 a public road was laid out from Scotch Cove (East Chester) to the town of Chester. It was built by subscription under the supervision of a committee of seven land owners.

(Copied from DesBrisay's History)

To His Excellency Lieutenant-Governor Wilmot.

Chester, April 1, 1766.

"We, the subscribers, do by these present agree to have a public road laid out and established from the head or bottom of the Cove, commonly called Scotch Cove, westward to the town of Chester, running as straight as may conveniently be done, in and by the judgement of us, the committee."

(signed) Josiah Marshall
Thomas Floyd

(signed) Robert James
Asa Dimock
John Umlock
John Hutchinson

The citizens also realized the need of a road from Chester to Windsor.

Again we read from DesBrisay's History, the following quotation: "Chester, Dec 3 1779. We, whose names are here unto subscribed do acknowledge to have received of Timothy Houghton Esq. two shillings and sixpence (each of us) out of thirty shillings and sixpence generously given by Joseph Pernette, Esq. for encouragement in cutting out a road from Chester towards Windsor. Timothy Houghton on behalf of David Houghton, Charles Houghton, Simon Houghton on behalf of James Butler, Cutlip X (his mark) Walker, Jr."

However, it seemed to take considerable time before this road was made passable. In 1864 the Governor appointed William Morris and Jonathan Prescott to register all land owners. This was done and their report approved by the Governor. In a letter to Mr. Morris he directed that money from the sale of the lots be used on the Windsor Road.

A direct road from Halifax to Chester along the south shore was not made passable for traffic until 1848.

A. F. Church of Bedford, published a map dated March 24, 1864. This shows the streets and plan for the town plot of Chester at that time. The streets running north and south were Water, Duke, Queen, King, Central, Prince, Victoria, Granite and Brunswick. Those running east and west are North, Main, Tremont, Regent, Union, Pleasant and South. These street names remain the same today.

TRANSPORTATION AND MAILS

Previous to the year 1905, when the Halifax and South Western Railway commenced to operate, all heavy freight was transported by water or horse drawn wagons and the mail was carried mostly by horse back or stage coach. As early as 1832 and for a number of years following the mails from Halifax for Liverpool and Chester were going by way of Windsor overland to Chester.

An advertisement in the "Nova Scotian" of May 20, 1833, stated that Leonard D. Geldert, the mail courier, intended to run a carriage for the accommodations of passengers during the summer months, from Windsor to Liverpool via Chester and Lunenburg. The stage coach left Windsor for Liverpool every Tuesday on arrival of the coach from Halifax and made twenty miles on the Chester road the same night. It arrived in Chester at nine o'clock Wednesday morning, Lunenburg at four the same afternoon. It returned to Windsor on Monday in time for passengers to proceed to Halifax on Monday's stage.

Today by bus one would have to travel from Windsor to Halifax on Acadian Coach Lines, change at Halifax to MacKenzie Lines and travel to Bridgewater by way of Lunenburg. Again, change buses at Bridgewater for Liverpool. The distance would be covered in part of a day, travelling all the way over paved roads. For those wishing to travel by private car, shorter routes are open, taking less time to make the trip.

In the year 1867, those who wished to travel to the south shore could

patronize Kings line of coaches which left the Acadian Hotel at Halifax every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at six a.m., for Chester and Bridgewater, with connections at Mahone Bay with Zwicker's coach for those who wished to journey to Lunenburg.

Going back to 1876 and from there on to 1905, there were three mail and passenger routes to Chester; the four horse coach from Halifax along the south shore, a two horse conveyance from Kentville to Chester and a one horse rig from Chester to Windsor. The one from Halifax was a daily mail and the two were twice weekly.

In writing for his family, T. Cottnam Tonge Smith wrote: "In 1876 Abner Webber and Robert Smith contracted to carry the mail from Chester to Windsor twice a week, each party driving one trip each week. The distance was thirty-six miles, and this meant going one day and returning the next. Abner went on Tuesday and father (Robert Smith) on Fridays.

"Cull (brother to Cottnam) drove it for the first year, then as I was sixteen years old, Father thought I could do the driving. I drove the mail for three years. This would be from 1877 to 1880."

(Copied from DesBrisay's History)

"Scotch Cove, now called East Chester, two miles from Chester on the Halifax road, was originally settled by John Hutchinson, John Duncan, Thomas Thomson and others, most of whom came from Glasgow and Edinburgh. Some of the grants were given for services in the British army and were by Lord William Campbell, Lieutenant-Governor, consisting of about two hundred and fifty acres each, subject to quit rent of one fathing an acre. John Duncan came from Edinburgh. Two descendants of Mr. Duncan's (John and George) reside at East Chester. They spoke to the writer (DesBrisay) of the difficulties that were encountered at that time, when they were without roads and the people had to carry provisions on their backs. George Duncan was one of those drafted for service at Halifax during the American War. This caused his absence from home from November until April. Having obtained leave of absence for a month, he returned home by land, when for much of the journey there was not even a foot path.

"In those days the mails from Halifax to Chester were carried via Hammonds Plains, sometimes on horseback and other times on foot. Pitts, Sullivan and Johnston were mail carriers on this route. One of them (Pitts) was once taken by Mr. Duncan in a schooner to Indian Harbour, because it was impossible to travel the intervening distance by land. The mail was carried in a small knapsack, and the whole package did not exceed five pounds."

Miss Victoria Church is credited as being the first post-mistress for the village of Chester. The map published in 1864, has spotted along the streets, buildings in the town at that time. Marked at the corner of Queen and Union Streets is post telegraph. Since it is known that this was Church property, perhaps it was here that she first acted as post-mistress. At any rate, it is known that she kept the post office at one time, in the building which in later years became Cole's Drug Store.

In the year 1878 Mary Smith was post-mistress at the residence of Charles Brown. This building, situated on King Street, in more recent years became known as the Swedish Inn and is now occupied by Lady Grimble. Later the post office was moved to a building on Duke Street. This is now the property of Nova Scotia Light and Power. Annie Stanford served as post-mistress here, until Fred Butler Sr. took over in 1920. In 1924 the post office services were moved to rooms in the Lovett House Annex. In 1939 the present day post office was built on the corner of Queen and Union, directly across from the site marked in as post telegraph on the town plot plan shown on the map of 1864. Mr. Fred Butler retired as post-master in 1960 and Mr. Eugene Morash took over the duties as post-master and still holds this position in 1967.

It is interesting to note the tremendous increase in the bulk of mail during those years. Mr. Butler recalls when he first acted as post-master, there were very few daily newspapers coming in. The "Family Herald", a weekly newspaper, had the largest number of subscribers, and a few monthly magazines arrived in the mail. Today most residents receive a daily paper and some people two and a large number of magazines arrive daily as well. And of course the number of letters each day is very large.

RAILWAYS

In 1905 the railway was completed, and in January the first train came through from Halifax to Bridgewater. While the railway did much to open up a speedier communication with other areas, it was not all happiness on the part of the residents.

Previous to the coming of the train, from 1901 to 1905, the Municipal Council of Chester did considerable work in regard to the building of the Halifax and South Western Railway and they borrowed money to pay land damages.

This is a statement from "Some Historical Events of Chester" by Cottnam T. Smith. "Another matter connected with railway affairs came up in 1905 in which the municipality had nothing to do with, was an action taken by the owners of land which had been burnt by fire, being set by train engines and the action called for arbitration. The law firm of MacLean and Freeman acted for the land-owners, and Lawyer Melish, later Judge Melish, acted for the railway company. Charles Starret was appointed for the company and Cottnam Smith for the people."

This statement indicated further discontent on the part of the citizens. Then of course there were those incidents when the farmers' cows wandered out on the tracks and met an untimely death. What a struggle it was for those early engineers and trainmen. Even the elements of nature contrived to hold them back. Recorded in Captain Robert Barkhouse's journal of the "Progress" we find the following statement: "Jan 27th 1905 Shovelled out roads again. Train and coach behind time. Feb 1st, 1905 Turned out and shovelled snow. Roads blocked up. Coaches and trains all hung up. Feb. 10th 1905 Train left Halifax on the 7th passed through here 10th. Feb 13 Snowing in A.M. turned to rain. Turned out and shovelled so coach could get along.

Train went out from here with men on 11th to clear the road. Feb 16th Snow, wind E. backing to N.W. Roads all blocked up. Turned out to shovel, no coach or train. March 16th Working train arrived today going east to clear the railroad. About fifty men with her. March 30th 1905 First passenger train since Feb 10th passed through today."

Regardless of all these drawbacks the train's daily run continued, bringing mail, freight and passengers. The railway station became a centre of interest. Train time found a group of people gathering at the station. A line up of teams, mail carriers for outside points, as well as for the village post office, covered surreys and riding wagons, ready to take alighting passengers to their desired destination, within the village or outside, as the case would be. Always among this collection of people would be the curious ones, seeking the news. It is said that certain housewives, without bothering to remove their aprons, hastened to the railway station each morning when the train arrived, welcoming the new-comers and greeting friends who had been away on trips.

These were the days of skittish horses and this caused many an exciting episode. Runaway, was the word shouted whenever a horse bolted. The bystanders scrambled to a safe vantage spot, witnessing many an upset wagon at the foot of the hill where the station road turned to meet the main highway.

Over the years, many persons of importance arrived. Chester, with its natural charm, attracted visitors of prestige. In the year 1923, Lord and Lady Byng visited here and were greeted at the railway station by the citizens of the area. As recently as 1956 Governor-General Vincent Massey, on a tour throughout Canada, had his train stop at Chester, where a group of Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Cubs, school children and citizens greeted him.

The Halifax and South Western, which had become part of the Canadian Northern Railway system of MacKenzie and Mann, became part of the Canadian National Railways in 1918.

Eventually the train lost its importance as a passenger carrier. Today the Halifax bound bus picks up the mail at the post office, so, the quantity of mail going by train has decreased. All mails for the surrounding area is distributed by rural delivery. This year, 1967, one mail train coming from Halifax each morning travels west to Yarmouth while another returns to Halifax in the late afternoon. However, the railway is still important in its usefulness, as it travels through Chester on its south shore route, delivering and picking up freight, especially for two enterprising industries, the fish plant at Lunenburg and the paper mill at Liverpool. Each year between October 15 and December 15 the freight yard at Chester becomes a busy place with the shipping of Nova Scotia balsam trees to parts of United States of America.

CARS AND BUSES

In the late twenties and thirties, cars began to replace the horse and

wagon, and as roads improved, drivers ventured further from home in their horseless carriages. Visitors coming to Chester to spend their summer vacations began coming in their own cars. Gradually the interest focused on train time passed. A bus route between Bridgewater and Halifax was started in the mid-thirties by B. L. MacKenzie and people were finding this a more convenient mode of transportation.

At first, large passenger cars were used on this route which ran from Bridgewater to Halifax and returned daily. Those persons wishing to gain passage merely needed to flag the bus at any point along the route. These early cars could carry possibly ten passengers. By the year 1939 the road was Macadamized and a large bus ran the route carrying about thirty passengers. This was registered as MacKenzie Bus Lines, and is still giving service in 1967 with modern and comfortable coaches seating about fifty passengers. Four times daily, twice in the morning, once in the afternoon, and once in the evening, a MacKenzie bus passes through Chester on its way to Halifax from Bridgewater. There are also four bus runs from the city of Halifax to Bridgewater each day. This gives wonderful service to the travelling public.

TANCOOK FERRY SERVICE

Tancook Island lies approximately seven miles from Chester. While this body of land belongs to the Municipality of Lunenburg, the residents have always had a close association with Chester.

In the year 1934 the residents of the Island felt there was a definite need for a ferry boat as a public service. This would give them a convenient contact with the mainland at Chester and would be available when the need of a doctor arose.

At that time the Federal Government in power was of the Conservative Party, under the leadership of R. B. Bennett. Their pleas were heard and they were granted a government subsidy to operate a ferry service for the winter months.

The Gerald L. C., a fishing schooner, owned by Mr. Willis Crooks, was converted into a deck boat, and it was the first ferry boat to run between Tancook Island and Chester. In 1942 the "S. Mason", a motor boat, used previously as a coastal freighter from Tancook to Halifax, became the ferry boat between Tancook and Chester. The "T. I. Service" was commissioned in 1945. She was built at Mason's Shipyard on Tancook Island specifically for a ferry boat and took over full control of the ferry service, which now had become a daily run, carrying passengers, freight and mail. Later the "Shoreham" was built at Meteghan. She is the largest boat used for this ferry service and this year brings daily, students attending Chester Municipal High School. James Clothier is skipper of the Shoreham. The ferry service now gives contact to the mainland from the islands of Big Tancook, Little Tancook and Ironbound.

TELEGRAPH

The first telegraph operator was a daughter of George Richardson. The

office was situated on Union Street. This time is placed to have been about 1864. Miss Hannah Church also acted as operator for a period of time.

In the early nineteen-twenties the Western Union established an office in the residence of Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Gorman. Mrs. Gorman, the former Bessie Hemlow, was an experienced operator. She started her career in 1894 at Halifax. In 1898 she worked with the Canadian Pacific in Montreal, so Mrs. Gorman was placed in charge of the office at Chester.

The telegraph office was very busy during the summer months as a number of prominent statesmen, among them, Henry Morgenthau, Secretary to the Treasury of United States and wealthy business men, such as Cyrus Eaton and C. W. Grove, owned summer places or spent their vacations in Chester. Such men as these frequently required the service of the telegraph office.

After two decades the Canadian National took over Western Union, which now operated only in the summer months. Canadian National asked Mrs. Gorman to continue as manager of the office. She carried on for five more years, retiring in 1946.

The office was then moved to the Canadian National Railway Station where it is still maintained.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

Minnie Smith was the first telephone operator. The switch board was established at the Lovett House Annex, from there it was moved to the Mulgrave House in 1906. Again it was moved, in 1911, to the Mitchell House. Mr. Will Mitchell had a number of daughters who acted as telephone operators. In 1923 Mr. Charles Hiltz received the contract to give the services of the telephone office. He also was blessed with a family of girls, whose clear, patient voices became familiar to the telephone subscribers. His daughter, Olive, served as operator for nineteen years. Once again the switch board was moved. Maritime Telegraph and Telephone Company purchased a building on Regent Street. This had been the former home of Miss Hannah Church. Here John and Audrey Newcombe made their home and managed the telephone office from the year 1945 to 1959. The Newcombes had started with two operators and during those years the staff had increased to ten. The telephone subscribers also increased from two hundred seventy-five to eight hundred. The number of subscribers today is close to one thousand.

In 1959 a new building was built on the Maritime Telegraph and Telephone property at the corner of Queen and Regent Streets. At that time the dial system with an automatic switch board came into effect.

NAVIGATOR STATION

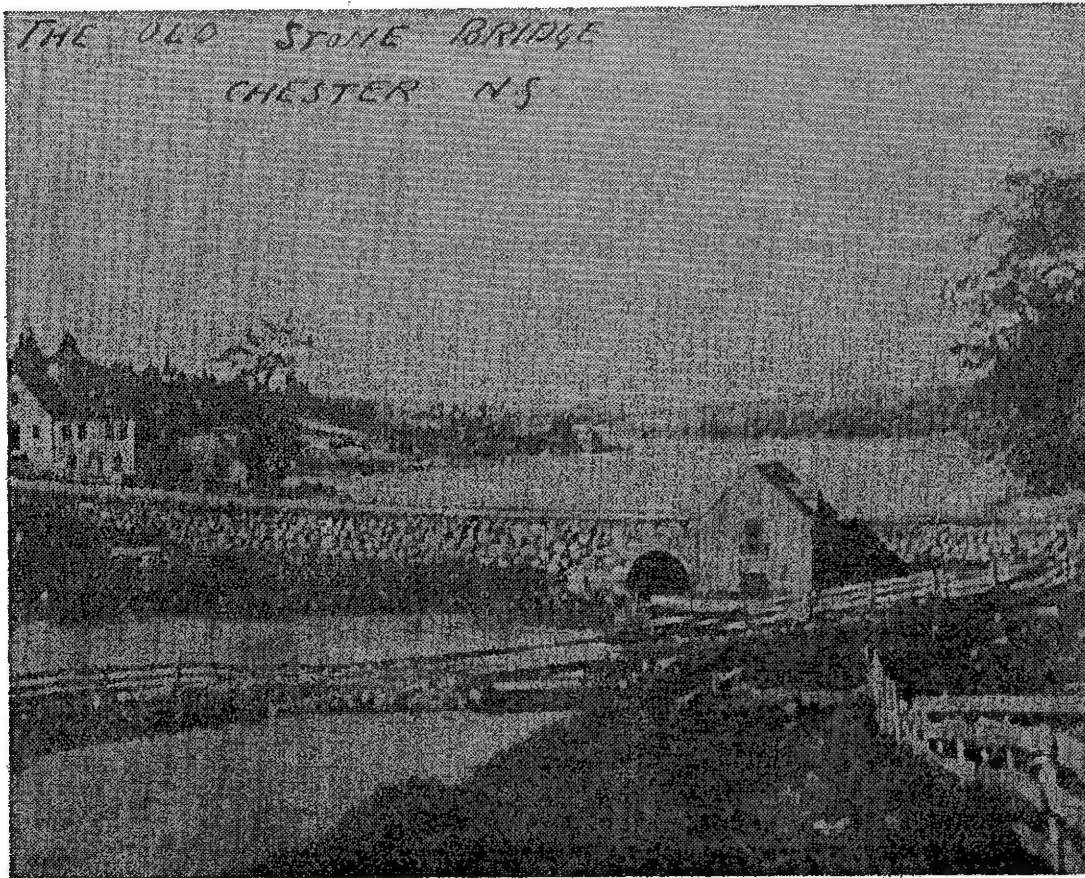
The Decca Navigator Station at Wakeup Hill in Chester was established in 1957 by the English company, Decca Radar (Canada) Ltd. A staff of English electronic experts headed by a Mr. Fletcher superintended the installation of the equipment. Mr. E. A. Cushman of England was in charge

of the chain of radio stations. The glowing light from the three steel antenna towers that mark the site of the master station at Wakeup Hill can be seen across the countryside. Satellite Stations at Jordan Bay, Shelburne County; Ecum Secum, Guysborough County; and Alma, New Brunswick, comprise a chain that relay the radio signals. The signals provide a navigational direction findings to ships at sea, and planes which are equipped with receiving apparatus.

A monitor station was operated at Chester, staffed by four women, who worked the eight hour shifts in conjunction with the men at the Master Station, checking and reporting any irregularity in the patterns as they were flashed. The monitor station was closed at the end of 1959, when the Department of Transport incorporated the monitoring operations into their own system.

Mr. Eric Redden is now in charge of the Navigation Station and with his staff maintains a twenty-four hour watch over the operations.

HISTORY FROM A PICTURE "THE OLD STONE BRIDGE" CHESTER, N. S.
by Mary E. Hume



Looking at the picture, beginning in the lower right hand corner, one sees, between the fence and the brook, a strip of land. This was once part of the road that the stage coach travelled when it entered the village of Chester, sometime during the mid and late eighteen hundreds. To the left side of the picture, close to the Stone Bridge, can be seen the remains of the butment, where a bridge of wooden structure was once built across the brook. This brook runs from Stanford's Lake and at this point empties into the salt water which forms the Back Harbour, that lies beyond the Stone Bridge. Previous to the Halifax stage coach coming, the coach to Chester came by way of Windsor Road, bringing passengers and mail. This route was even before the wooden bridge was constructed, and many times the coach had to wait for the tide to fall before it could continue its journey up the hill to the Columbia House, where passengers could disembark. Still further on into the village it would wend its way to deliver the mail at the post office on the property of Charles Brown, King Street. From here it moved still further on, this time down hill to the other side of the village where the tired horses were cared for at "Blair's Barn". This was the early route of the stage coach; naturally as years passed changes occurred, other hotels were opened, and the route of the stage coach changed also.

In the month of October, 1878, there was a terrible storm known as the Saxby Gale. A huge tidal wave caused the tide to rise in the brook to the height of four feet, and part of the wooden bridge was washed away.

It is open to question, exactly what year the Stone Bridge was built to replace the wooden one. Mr. Edmund Feader, a life time citizen of Chester, whose boyhood home was near the bridge, remembers when the Stone Bridge was being constructed, and places the time as being eighty-five years ago, which would make the year 1882. He recalls that the contractor's name was Mr. Tufts.

Showing in the picture's foreground, to the right of the bridge, is a small wooden building. It was in this building the grain was stored while waiting to be ground at the grist mill which was situated further up the brook. Later this same building was used as a barn. To the right of this building one can see the willow tree which over-shadowed the Smith's blacksmith shop. From the blacksmith shop the smithy came to the brook to tire wagon wheels. The blacksmith shop was established in 1840 and to-day a member of the fourth generation works there using equipment which dates back to the original founder.

The willow tree also played a significant part in the livelihood of the early settlers. Throughout the area at the head of the Back Harbour a number of willow trees had been planted by these people. The growth of these trees was kept cut back, and the suckers which grew out were very pliable. These the settlers used, weaving them to shape baskets, eel-pots and brooms.

The house in the background, on the left side of the bridge, is one of the earliest houses built in Chester. It was built against a side hill, after the Cape Cod design. On the ground floor was a cellar kitchen with a stone fire place and bake oven. The huge three division chimney was built in the centre of the house and gave a fire place to two rooms on the second floor.

There are no known records as to whom the builders were or who first occupied the house. It is definitely known that in the year 1864 Billy Whalen owned and occupied the house.

This house has its own ghost story. At the time when it was occupied by the Whalen family, a store was kept in one of the front rooms. It became a gathering place for people, and rumor has it that sometimes the conduct here was questionable, and that a murder was committed here to one Mr. Brown. At any rate the body of Mr. Brown was found by two bathers as they sought to refresh themselves in the water below the bridge.

On the floor of the front hall in the house, blood stains were found which could not be eradicated. Marks showed that some person or persons had tried to chip them away, but there they remained until the house was torn down in 1959. A number of different families occupied this house and all had tales to tell of the strange noises heard within its walls and also outside the house itself. It is related that at times a man was seen struggling up over the wall by the bridge and walking along the road to the house where he knocked on the door. Within the house the sound of knocking on the door had been heard, and on investigating the sound the hearer had found no one waiting outside the door. Another distinct sound heard was that similar to the clink of the old type balance weighing scale, said to have been used by the store keeper.

In the year 1901 Ephriam Hume purchased the house and property from a granddaughter of Mr. Billy Whalen. Here Ephriam Hume and his wife, the former Ida Frail, brought up their family and made their home for fifty-eight years. If this ghost kept them company, it only added to the charm that was created in a home of happy living.

Still standing on the property as a retaining wall is part of the original cellar wall of the old house, constructed by workmen close to two hundred years ago.

The Old Stone Bridge is an imposing structure of excellent workmanship. Over it today moves daily high powered cars, huge transport trucks and touring buses. It is a popular stopping place for artists and camera enthusiasts seeking a picture of the unusual, for there are few bridges such as this one to be seen today.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT FROM 1759 - 1967

A Township was not only an area of land but also an organized body of persons. The New England settlers coming here received as corporate bodies, the lands set aside for them as surveyed by the Chief Surveyor, Charles Morris, and his assistants. Each proprietor obtained a grant of land, usually a definite number of acres.

The following entry in Rev. John Seccombe's diary appearing in

"DesBrisay's History of Lunenburg County", reads: "On August 24th, 1759, Town Meeting Day chose Captain Houghton as Moderator and adjourned." Captain Timothy Houghton, J.P. died in 1780 and it was necessary to chose another Moderator.

Apparently before 1785, an act was passed by the Governor-in-Council of the Province of Nova Scotia for regulating the affairs of the different settlements, for, in 1784 the Governor appointed William Morris and Jonathon Prescott to register the land-owners and make their report. This was done and approved by the Governor. Acting on the report of the Governor the proprietors made application for a meeting to be held on January 13th, 1785, to act upon the following articles:

1. To chose a Moderator.
2. To ballot for seven men as Committee of Reference.
3. To consult on most equitable measures for redistribution of lands.
4. To ballot for two men to be recommended to the Governor as additional Magistrates for this County.
5. To act in all such matters as may be legal and necessary.

This application was signed by twenty proprietors and addressed to Jonathon Prescott Esq., Proprietor's Clerk, who issued a warrant on the same day, requiring all the proprietors to meet at the house of William Kennedy, Inn-Holder, on Monday the 31st day of the same month at 10 o'clock, and naming the articles to be considered at the meeting. The meeting was held and Josiah Marshall chosen Moderator and the following agents for the proprietary were:

1. Jonathon Prescott
2. Anthony Vaughan
3. William Nelson
4. Franklin Etter
5. John Martin
6. Samuel Morehead
7. Josiah Marshall

On the 25th of February 1785, Mr. Charles Morris, Surveyor-General of Nova Scotia, addressed a letter to Jonathon Prescott, Josiah Marshall and Franklin G. Etter, Esquires, in which he expressed the satisfaction of the Governor (Governor J. Parr) with the proceedings taken by the proprietors; thanked them for their approval of his own endeavours for the public good; promised to continue his exertions in promoting the welfare of the rising settlement; and wished the inhabitants all the success and prosperity they can wish themselves.

In Chapter 99 of the Second Series of the Revised Statutes for the Province, provision is made for Chester and other Municipalities for the appointment by the General Sessions, of Firewards, in Chapter 104, of "Madmen and Vagrants", (Lockups). In this series many other matters that came under the power of the "General Sessions" have since become laws enacted for the whole Province by the House of Assembly.

According to **Mr. DesBrisay's History** in February, 1842, a petition of Michael Schmitz and others was presented by Mr. Zwicker in the House of Assembly, and read, praying that a law may pass to authorize the Grand Jury and Sessions for the County of Lunenburg to vote and assess moneys in the said County for a town house and lock-up house at Chester.

Mr. Zwicker, pursuant to leave given, presented a bill in accordance with the petition.

On the 21st of February, Mr. Creighton moved that the further consideration of the bill to provide a lock-up house and town house at Chester be deferred until this day three months. The bill passed both Houses.

The first Commissioners of Streets for the Town Plot of Chester were appointed previous to 1873. (See Revised Statutes 4th series, Chapter 49). In Chapter 57 of this same Series will be found the first "Municipal Incorporation Act." This act was optional on the part of any Municipality or County by a requisition to the Sheriff signed by 100 ratepayers, after which an election would be held to determine the matter for or against. Only one or two Counties took advantage of this Act.

In the meetings of the General Sessions, practically the same order was maintained as in the Council of the present day — five Justices formed a quorum. There was a Clerk and Treasurer.

In the Chester Sessions, just previous to the Incorporation Act for all Municipalities, Charles Lordly, J.P. was Clerk and Daniel Etter, Treasurer. The Annual Session was held in January.

By the Provincial Election of 1878 the Holms-Thompson Government came in power, and on April 17th, 1879 "The County Incorporation Act" came in force for all Municipalities.

The first Elections for the Municipality of Chester were held November, 1879, and the results were as follows: Chester, District No. 6 elected Mr. George Richardson and Daniel Duncan. Mr. Richardson became the first Warden. He lived on the corner where Charles Hiltz has his office. This spot went by the name of Richardson's Corner. His daughter was the first telegraph operator in Chester.

There were only four other Electoral Districts, Mill Cove and Fox Point, Blandford and Sandy Beaches, (now Bayswater), Chester Basin and Gold River, including Martin's Point, and New Ross. George Shatford was elected for Mill Cove District, Peter Boutilier for Blandford and Sandy Beaches, and James Hiltz for the District of New Ross.

From **Mr. DesBrisay's History**, it appears that Chester Basin District was included in some other District. Mr. Cottnam Smith was of the opinion that Chester Basin was represented and that Nathan Keddy was the man elected. If this is correct, N. W. Keddy represented Chester Basin District until the April Session of 1900. In 1901 at the January session Mr. Eli Counteway was sworn in Councillor for that District.

THE WARDENS AND CLERKS FOR THE MUNICIPALITY HAVE BEEN AS FOLLOWS:

WARDENS:

George Richardson	from	1879 to 1883	
Robert A. Smith		1883 to 1887	
James E. Whitford		1887 to 1893	
Henry Hiltz		1893 to 1900	
Burton Hennigar		1902 to 1905	
Thomas Meister		1905 to 1907	
Henry A. Hiltz		1907 to the annual meeting of 1913,	
		while the records that he was at the	
		semi-annual meeting, Delbert Webber	
		signing the minutes.	
Delbert Webber		1913 to 1919	
Clyde Shatford		1919 to 1937	
Dr. Lloyd Croft		1937 to 1950	
J. Franklyn Rafuse		1950 to 1958	
Maurice L. Zinck		1958 to 1964	
Dr. R. E. Hennigar		1964 to 1965	
Kirk Hennigar		1965 to 1966	
Earl Webber		1966 to —	

CLERKS:

Charles Lordly	from	1879 to 1890	
Capt. E. D. Lordly		1890 to 1919	First Clerk-Treasurer
Cottnam Smith		1919 to 1937	Clerk-Treasurer
R. C. Levy		1937 to 1946	Clerk-Treasurer & Solicitor
Ian M. Mitchell	Jan.	1946 to date	Clerk-Treasurer

COUNCILLORS FOR THE DIFFERENT DISTRICTS FROM 1879 to 1967

Chester No. 6:

George Richardson	Daniel Duncan	
Robert A. Smith	Stephen Corkum	
James E. Whitford	John Webber	
Henry Hiltz	Burton Hennigar	
Charles A. Smith	Burton Hennigar	
Walter Whitford	Constance C. Church	F. C. Hawboldt
Dr. A. M. Hebb	Grover Cole	
J. Roy Hennigar	J. Austin Evans	
Dr. Lloyd Croft	Cecil Colchester	
Theodore Hilchie	Maurice L. Zinck	Dr. R. E. Hennigar
		Earl G. Webber
Paul Flinn		

New Ross No. 7:

James Hiltz, David Turner, T. B. Meister, W. E. Gates.

In 1915 the New Ross District was divided and the District of New Ross West was set up. Edward Keddy of the Forties became the Councillor and held this office until 1961, a term of forty-six years which is a record which has not been equalled in this province. After his retirement, Mr. Courtney Keddy was elected and since then Mr. Lloyd Keddy to the present time.

NEW ROSS EAST:

John Larder, Sullivan Gates, Philip Barkhouse and Ronald Barkhouse.

MILL COVE NO. 11. Including Fox Point:

George Shatford, Leander Shatford, Shalto Shatford, Clyde Shatford, Oliver Shatford, Winton Boutilier, Blaine Shatford, Percy Shatford, Glen Shatford.

BLANDFORD AND SANDY BEACHES NO. 12. Now Bayswater:

Peter Boutilier, Henry Boutilier, Edmund Zinck, James Boutilier, George Gates, Austin Cleveland, Benjamin Cleveland, Solomon Zinck, Victor Zinck, Wellsley Publicover, Lawson Miller, Graham Hubley and Harold Cleveland.

CHESTER BASIN NO. 17. AT FIRST THIS INCLUDED GOLD RIVER, BEACH HILL, and MARTIN'S POINT

Nathan Keddy, Eli Countaway, Delbert Webber. Before the 1920 Council was elected, this District was divided and the Gold River District set up with James Vaughan as Councillor became District No. 14. Mr. Vaughan was followed by Mr. W. S. Sawler, Franklin Rafuse, Robert Mosher and Malcolm Vaughan for District No. 14. Mr. Robin S. Hennigar became the Councillor for District No. 17 followed by Kirk S. Hennigar and Fred Porter, Jr.

The Annual Council Meeting and the Semi-Annual, held respectively in February and May, were first held in the Old Town House. This building was up by the present Fire Hall and was demolished in 1960.

Since 1951, the Council has met in the Municipal Office Building on the corner of King and Pleasant Streets. This building formerly belonged to Dr. A. M. Hebb and Dr. Clara Olding Hebb. Later it belonged to Bank of Nova Scotia. It was purchased from Mr. G. G. Harnish of Hubbards by the Municipal Council.

Besides the Council Chambers, it houses the Registry of Deeds Office and the Assessor's Office. Mrs. Leola Lee is the Registrar of Deeds and Mr. Clifton Burgoyne is the Municipal Assessor.

The Deputy Municipal Clerk is Mr. Louis Feader.

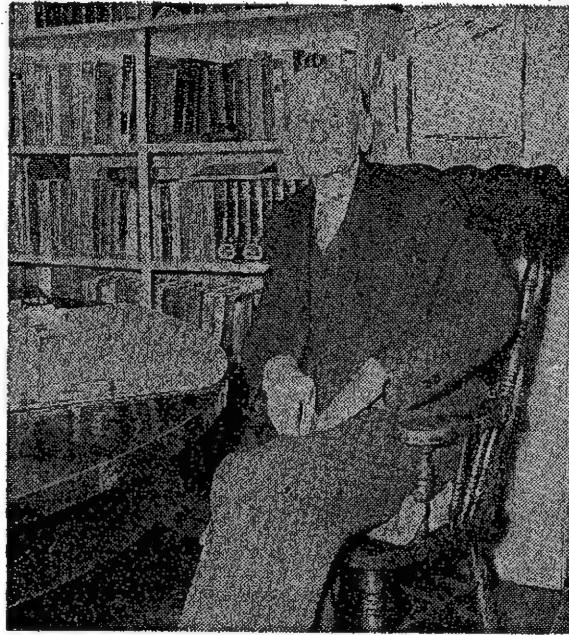
"Early Government to the Present Time" was compiled by
Mrs. Annie Zinck.

Sources:

DesBrisay's History of Lunenburg County.
Cottnam T. Smith's Historical Events of Chester.
The Municipal Office In Chester.

CHESTER'S GRAND OLD GENTLEMAN

Cottnam Tonge Smith lived one hundred years in Chester, on the property on which he was born, in the year 1861. He was a direct descendant of Rev. Bruin Romkes Comingo, one of the pioneering pastors. Like his father Robert Smith, he carried on the trade of blacksmith until he was appointed Municipal Clerk in 1910. Then in the early nineteen twenties he was made Justice of Peace. Mr. Smith felt that he wasn't qualified to hold this office, because of having only a Grade School education. But the former blacksmith proved his worthiness by learning a lot of law in the years that followed his appointment. His wisdom in court earned him the appointment of Stipendiary Magistrate in 1931 and he carried on with this office until he retired in 1957. At that time he was Canada's oldest acting Stipendiary Magistrate.



Besides his colorful career as Magistrate this venerable gentleman was a keen worker for the betterment of mankind. He was an active Red Cross worker and at an early age he held an office in the Temperance Organization. Records show his influence, in the Zoe Valle Library becoming a certainty, also in having a bank established in Chester. For a number of years he served as Sunday School Superintendent for the United Baptist Church. Because of his talent for writing, many records of happenings in Chester have been preserved.

He was married to the former May Walker. The warm hospitality of their home was known to hundreds of people. On his 100th birthday in 1961, congratulatory messages were delivered to his home, including telegrams from the Queen, Prime Minister Diefenbaker, Premier Stanfield, Lloyd Crouse (M.P. for Lunenburg Queens) and Attorney General Donahoe. At that

time he was enjoying good health, active in both mind and body.

On March 6, 1962, Mr. Cottnam Smith passed away, having lived all his long life in his beloved Chester, a village which he served well.

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES IN GOVERNMENT

The first election in the province of Nova Scotia was held during the summer of 1758, and on October second, the first Canadian House of Assembly convened at Halifax with nineteen of the twenty-two representatives in attendance.

At that time there were two representatives for the Township of Lunenburg, four for Halifax and sixteen for the province at large.

The following men from Chester area have been members of the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia:

Charles Lot Church

Biography previously given in story of the Loyalists.

Mather Byles DesBrisay

Born March 19th, 1827, at Chester, Nova Scotia.

Son of Thomas Belcher and Anna (Byles) DesBrisay, M.D.
Educated at Halifax. Lawyer Q.C.

Married a daughter of Col. Harley, an English Officer.

Secretary of the first provincial Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, Halifax, 1854.

M.L.A. for Lunenburg County from 1867 to 1876. Party — Liberal.

Speaker of the House of Assembly - May 3rd, 1875 to August 21st, 1876.

County Judge for Lunenburg, Queens and Shelburne, August 21st, 1876 to January, 1897.

Commissioner of Consolidation of the Statutes of Nova Scotia in 1876.

Immigration agent for Nova Scotia. Went to Great Britain in 1872 to 1876 in connection with this appointment.

Author of History of Lunenburg County (Halifax 1895).

Residence: Halifax and Bridgewater, Nova Scotia.

Died April 8th, 1900 in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia.

SENATOR CHARLES E. CHURCH

Senator Charles E. Church was born on Tancook Island on January 3rd, 1835. He was the son of Charles Lott Anthony Church who conducted a general store in the Village of Chester for a number of years on the property between King Street and Queen Street and bounded on the north by Central Street. His mother was Sarah Hiltz Church.

Senator Church was educated in the schools of Chester & Truro, taught school in Lunenburg County for ten years and afterwards engaged in the Mercantile business on the LaHave River.

He was elected to the Dominion House of Commons for Lunenburg County in 1862, was re-elected by acclamation in 1874 and sat in that House until 1878.

In 1882, he was elected to the Provincial House of Assembly, Liberal. In the same year he was made Provincial Secretary, which

Office he held until 1884 when, on the reconstruction of the Government, he was appointed Commissioner of Public Works and Mines. He held this office for seventeen years, resigning in 1901.

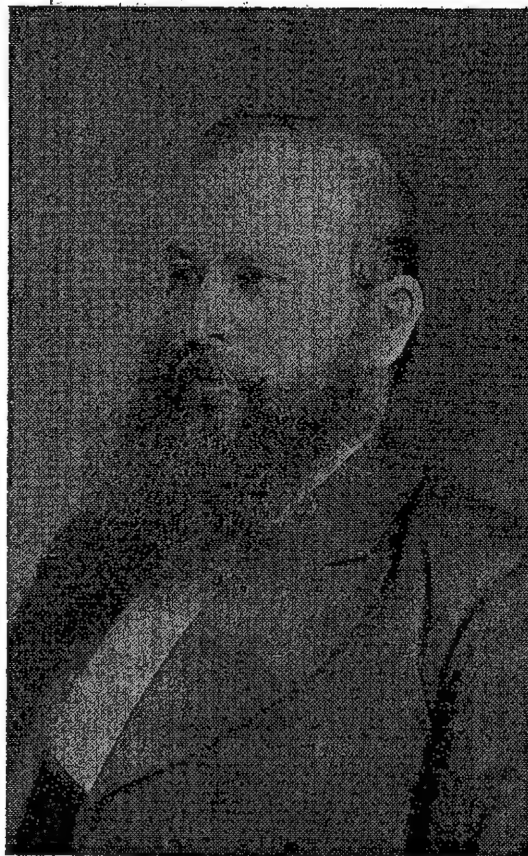
In 1902, he was called to the Dominion Senate.

In 1884, he married Henrietta Pugsley of Halifax.

For the long period of thirty years in Federal and Provincial Arenas, he held the esteem and confidence of the Electorate on Lunenburg County. He died as he was ascending the stairs of his residence in Halifax on January 3rd, 1906. His wife died on May 15th, 1925.

The Church Memorial Park was a gift to the Village of Chester from the Estate of the late Senator Church.

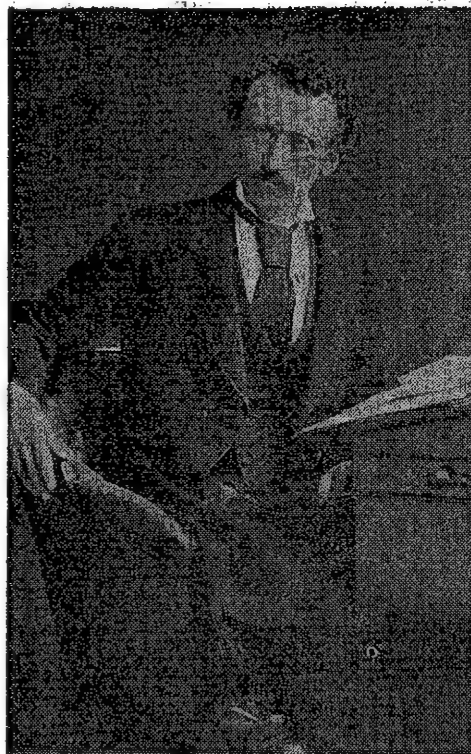
The above information was taken from an address delivered by E. P. Webber, Trustee at the opening of the Church Memorial Park at Chester, Nova Scotia on June 3rd, 1933. This address was published in the Lunenburg Progress-Enterprise.



CHARLES ARNOLD SMITH, M.L.A.

Charles Arnold Smith, son of Robert and Elizabeth Smith, was born in Chester on May 18th, 1845.

In 1869, Mr. Smith accompanied his sister, Ada, to Davenport, Iowa, where she was to be married. When he returned to Chester the following year, he married Eleanor Caldwell of Elfershouse, Nova Scotia, and built the house now occupied by Lyttleton Boutilier on North Street. At the same time he joined with his father and his brother Winton, both established blacksmiths, to form a partnership blacksmith business under the name of R. A. Smith & Sons. This was in the building on the corner of North and Victoria Streets where Stuart Smith, a grand-nephew, carries on his wrought iron business today.



In 1879, Smith, a Conservative, was elected to the Legislative Assembly in Halifax. This was the time of the Holmes-Thompson Conservative Government whose first legislation, the County Incorporation Act was so unpopular that the party was defeated in the following election in 1882.

After his election, Smith rented what had been his father's original blacksmith shop on Union Street near the corner of King Street, between the houses owned today by W. H. Pressley and Mrs. Sydney Morse. There he opened a store. Later he bought the property and built the house now owned by Mrs. Morse. It was there that he died in October 1905.

Smith was survived by three of his children, Perlle Rudolph Smith, who spent most of his life in Sydney, Nova Scotia; Pearl Beckwith Mitchell, first wife of Henry Mitchell of Chester; and Ida Dufferin Curran Zinck, first wife of Percy Zinck of Chester. His wife and one daughter Mary predeceased him.

This information was presented by **Charles Arnold Smith's Great Grandson, Mr. Thompson Smith of Chester.**

HON. ROBERT CLIFFORD LEVY, Q.C.,

Born at Sherwood, Lunenburg Co., October 19th, 1905. After matriculating for College, entered Acadia University, graduated with B.A., later Dalhousie University, L.L.B., 1931. Admitted to the Bar in N.S., August 1932. Worked at The Eastern Trust Company in Halifax as an Assistant Trust Officer until 1938. Appointed Clerk-Treasurer of Chester Municipality in 1938 and remained as such until 1945. Continued practice of law in Chester and Bridgewater where he moved in 1949. In 1947-1948 served as President of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. Served as Solicitor for Chester Municipality from 1945 to 1956. Member of the Bridgewater Town Council 1950-1954. Created a Queen's Counsel on January 1st, 1955. First elected as a member of the House of Assembly in 1953 for the County of Lunenburg, re-elected in 1956 for Lunenburg East. Member of the



Stanfield Government, Minister of Lands and Forests, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and a Member of the Executive Council. On August 1/59 appointed Judge of the County Court for District Number Two. In February 1966 sworn in as Judge of the Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes for Nova Scotia.

Married to Thora McClare Freeman of Halifax. Three children, one daughter, two sons. A member of the Bridgewater Baptist Church and a member of the Board of Governors of Acadia University.

FRATERNALLY:

A member and Past Master of Clarke Lodge No. 61, A. F. & A. M., Chester. Member of Norwood Lodge No. 135, A. F. & A. M., New Ross. District Deputy Grand Master for District No. 5, A. F. & A. M., 1944 - 1945. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, A. F. & A. M. 1963 - 1964. 32nd, degree mason, a member of the Scottish Rite bodies in the Valley of Halifax. A member of Philae Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. Member of the Provincial Chapter Royal Order of Scotland.

Past Chief Ranger and Past District High Chief Ranger, Court 895, Chester, N. S. Canadian Order of Foresters.

Past Patron Mae Chapter O.E.S., Bridgewater.

MAURICE LOUIS ZINCK, M.L.A.

Maurice L. Zinck, M. L. A., was born in Chester on December 30th, 1911, the son of Owen and Hettie Zinck. He attended the Chester Public School. He was employed by the Nova Scotia Light and Power Company prior to enlisting in the Canadian Army with the West Nova Scotia Regiment at the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. He went overseas that same year and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He returned to Canada in 1942 and served as an instructor for seven months before being sent overseas again. He returned again to Canada and received his Commission in 1944; after requesting overseas service, he was severely injured in a training accident at Aldershot.



Following his army service, Mr. Zinck completed his high school education and later graduated from Maritime Business College with Honors in Accounting & Business Administration.

He became a member of the Municipal Council for the District of Chester in 1953 and has served as Warden of the municipality from 1957 to 1964.

Active in Community Activities, Mr. Zinck is a member of three Masonic Orders and is a Past Master of two of them. He is Financial Secretary for the Canadian Order of Foresters, Past President of the Lunenburg Fish and Game Association, Executive Member of the Dr. John M. T. Finney Memorial Fund, and is a Member of the Canadian Legion F. E. Butler Branch No. 44, the Chester Board of Trade, and the Chester Cornet Band. He is also a member of St. Stephen's Anglican Church where he is Warden and an active member of St. Stephen's Anglican Choir.

Mr. Zinck was elected to the Provincial Legislature as an M. L. A. for Lunenburg East, at a by-election on October 14th, 1959, to fill the vacancy left by the Hon. R. C. Levy, former Minister of Municipal Affairs and Minister of Lands & Forests. He was re-elected in the June 10th, 1960, Provincial Election and again on October 8th, 1963, with an increased majority.

In 1939 he married the former Annie Evans of Chester. They have two children, Maurice Evans and Christine Elizabeth.

For the past seventeen years he has owned and operated a Hardware & Sporting Goods Store in Chester.

INDUSTRY

When the main body of settlers arrived at Chester from Massachusetts in 1759 they found a saw mill in operation. This mill was located near the foot of what is now called Stanford's Lake; this could probably be regarded as Chester's first industry. Records of DesBrisay's History of Lunenburg County show that according to Rev. Secomb's diary the mill was visited on the day following their arrival. It is also recorded that barrel staves and shingles were sold at Halifax in 1759.

By 1763 Chester had thirty families, thirty cleared acres and families were raising provisions. Governor Franklyn's return for 1767 shows two saw mills in operation, eight fishing boats, five schooners and sloops, forty-two cows, forty-two young cattle, twenty-five sheep, twenty-one swine, wheat, rye, barley, oats, beans, flax, fish, barrels and seventy thousand feet of boards. By 1793 an inventory showed cultivated acres four hundred fourteen and one-half, one blacksmith shop, two mills with lumber output of two hundred thirty thousand feet, thirty-eight oxen, seventy-two cows, fifty-four heifers and steers, one hundred seventy-three sheep and forty-nine hogs. Wheat, barley, oats, corn, peas and potatoes were grown.

Little record has been kept of village affairs over the period from time of settlement until the twentieth century but we know that farming, lumbering and coastal fishing and trading were the means of livelihood. One of the larger farms, that of descendants of James Webber, a settler of 1760, remained in the family until 1963 when it was sold to be sub-divided for homes. Some descendants of the Webber family still reside on the property on Webber's Hill.

The Whitford farm on part of which the Chester Municipal School now stands was also in the same family for several generations. Mr. Edgar Whitford, who died in 1964, was the last operator. The property was first owned by Anthony Thickpenny, a British Officer, and the old house demolished in 1964 was built by him. Other farms were at Zinck's Point (Lobster Point) and were operated by members of the Zinck family for several generations. The property at Lobster Point now occupied by Mrs. J. N. Pew, a summer resident, was the farm of a son of Gotleib Hawboldt a settler of 1782.*

Grist Mills and Tanneries were common along the streams and catered to the needs of the people.

In 1857, Mr. James Mills purchased the property near the foot of Stanford's Lake from which flowed several streams. He operated a busy tannery and grist mill assisted by his seventeen sons. At his death in 1877 his son, Douglas carried on the business until the first quarter of the twentieth century. **

*DesBrisay's History

**Papers in possession of the Mills Family

Nearby on the same stream a tannery was operated by Charles Reeves

and later by Hugh Stanford. The large tannery building located here was burned in the Hawboldt Gas Engines fire in 1920.*

At the head of Stanford Lake, Mr. John Stanford a native of Kent, England, who came to Chesser in 1845 built his home and erected a grist and carding mill. He produced a superior type of goods. At his death in 1883 the business was carried on by his sons, Harry and John, who also operated a saw mill and made mission furniture with hand woven seats. Because of its fine quality and workmanship it was much sought after by the summer tourists. The mill is now owned by Harry Bond, Jr., who purchased it upon the death of Miss Jennie Stanford, a daughter, who had operated the family home as a guest house for summer visitors. It was known as Pinehurst Inn.

Coastal schooners fished and carried freight along the coast and from the United States. They travelled as far as Newfoundland and the West Indies in their various activities. Lumber was transported to the Indies and return voyage brought molasses, rum and sugar to the home port.

MINING

In 1874 at a public meeting the Chester Mining and Prospecting Company was formed. Papers were secured from the Department of Mines and in 1875 Mr. Pitblado was appointed to superintend the work of searching for coal and minerals. Borings were made at the entrance of the woods road to Spectacle Lake, at the spring on Stanford property and at the foot of Huckleberry Hill on Stanford Road. Mr. Pitblado was of the opinion no coal or iron was to be found. After considerable expense and labor the search was abandoned.

DesBrisay's History also mentions Chester Mining Company opening shafts on some of the gold veins at Gold River; one sample tested having given seventy-seven hundredweight gold and twelve ounces silver per ton.

LIME KILNS

Lime Kilns were operated in various sections of the township. Frail's Lime Quarry at East Chester was situated in the territory near Goat Lake. The lime from the quarry was shipped in considerable quantity to Halifax.

The limestone existed in various sections of the territory and good quality brown was found at Indian Point.

Alexander Pattillo, a native of Aberdeen, Scotland, settled in Chester in 1783. He was engaged in lime-burning and also owned a coastal vessel. He died in Chester in 1833, age 90 years. His son, Capt. James Pattillo born in Chester was noted for his great strength. He went to the United States and died in Massachusetts in 1887.**

Charles Lordley operated a lime kiln at the base of the hill opposite the late Ephraim Hume's property. Another kiln was at Garrett's Cove (Chandler Settlement).

At East Chester paint was also manufactured from the mineral deposits and sold as Chester Paint.

*Cottnam Smith Historical Events.

**DesBrisay's History of Lunenburg County.

COOPER SHOPS

Cooper shops for making barrels by hand were an important part of the economy of the village. Several are remembered by older residents operating in the latter part of the previous century.

George Redden's shop was at the crest of the hill on North Street.

Jacob Barkhouse made barrels on his property at the end of North Street near the railway underpass.

A Mr. Williams, father of Charles Williams, had a cooper shop on Prince Street, in the hollow behind the old Lordley property. Charles Williams was a dentist, school teacher and justice of the peace.

Mr. James Gorman was a cooper who lived on the property now owned by Harvey Webber near the Lutheran Church. His grandson, Lorenzo Webber, was also a cooper and had his shop under the house where Nell Davis now lives.

James Smith lived near Mr. Gorman in the house now owned by Vernon Neaves. He was also a cooper. He was married four times and has many descendants. James Smith lost his life tragically. He was crushed against a building at the head of the cove by a run-away ox-team.

Information, Mrs. Eva Hawboldt. Age 91

MERCHANTS

Among the early merchants of Chester was George Bethune Mitchell, native of Ireland. He died 1855, age 70. His home was in the former Blockhouse (now the Wister House) and his store was on the waterfront adjoining the property.*

Michael Schmitz, born in Germany 1787, died 1817 -- Storekeeper.

John Butler was in business in Chester over fifty years. His general store was carried on by his son Edwin and until the early part of the 1900's by his grandson. Mr. Butler died in 1882.

Wm. H. Robinson, who died in 1882, was a successful general dealer for twenty-five years. Later his son Edward James carried on a large shipping and mercantile business and employed many persons. His son William operated a grocery store for some years.

Miss Hannah Church first operated a small store opposite the Catholic Church. Around 1900 she built a larger store and residence combined, on the corner of Queen and Union Streets. She carried a fine line of general goods and English woolens and china. She maintained a very successful business. Miss Church had an interesting personality and her store was most popular with the American tourists who sought her imported wares. In 1920 she sold her business to Mrs. Grace O'Dell who continued to operate until 1931 when the store was destroyed by fire. Miss Church was a granddaughter of Lot Church and a sister of Senator Church. She taught at Normal College, Truro, for ten years.*

***DesBrisay's History.**

Misses Teresa and Mary Robinson built the large house on Queen Street next to the post office. Here they operated a rooming house for tourists and a grocery store. After their deaths a niece, Mrs. Ida MacNeill, purchased the building in 1921 and has operated a dry goods store dealing in millinery and fine English woolens until the present day.

On the opposite corner from Miss Church's store stood a large old time dwelling house with a store in the front. It had originally belonged to the Richardson family for whom the hill below is named. Here around 1912 Mr. Austin Mills had a shoe repair shop and in what had been the parlor Mrs. Mills served delicious home made ice cream. The writer can well remember the oversize helpings received for a nickel and the fragrance from the syringa bushes growing outside the windows. This old dwelling was demolished around 1920.

The well known firm of Hennigar & Company that operated in Chester for many years had its beginning around 1885. Burton Hennigar, a native of Chester Grant, started in a humble way with a small building and a horse and cart delivering meats and provisions to the townsfolk and surrounding villages. Mr. Hennigar's business prospered and in 1900 a large store and dwelling house was erected on Pleasant Street. He maintained his own farm for the raising and slaughtering of beef. He was assisted in the business by his sons, Roy and Wilfred, and by his daughter, Miss Jean. The grocery and meat business was well patronized in the village. A delivery wagon also made weekly trips to outside points with feed and provisions. Mr. Hennigar retired in 1920 and passed away in 1930.

After Mr. Hennigar's retirement the business was carried on by his sons and daughter and became known as Hennigar & Company. In 1952, after over fifty years of service to the public, the Hennigars retired. The business was leased until 1966 when the buildings were sold to outside interests. A Grocery Chain known as the "Clover Leaf" now operates there.

Three Grocery Chains now operate in Chester. Of interest is the small "Corner Grocery" operated by Ward Tancock. This store first opened in 1885 by David Evans; it was later carried on by his son Meade and then by a granddaughter who still owns the building. This building is located at the head of the cove of the Front Harbor. It has been in continuous operation for about ninety years.

Doctors Hebb and Morse operated a drug store on Duke Street in the early part of the twentieth century. It was situated in a building that had formerly been a post office. Some of the old mail boxes may still be seen. In 1908 Grover Cole purchased the drug business and carried on successfully until the time of his death in 1965.

Mr. Alvin Nunn came to Chester in 1953 and opened a drug store known as "Chester Pharmacy Limited". Later he acquired property on Pleasant Street and in 1962 built a large modern drug store. An additional wing added in 1966 made it the largest Pharmacy in the Maritimes.

In 1923 Mr. Starr Mader and Mr. Edward Corkum purchased the land at the corner of Queen and Pleasant Streets. A large old time dwelling which stood there was demolished to make way for a large store with living quarters above. Opening in 1924 the store known as "Corkum & Mader" dealing in meats and general provisions, served the public until 1940. After this period it was sold and operated at different periods as general grocery stores and a drug store. It now houses the English Sport Shop, a ladies wear shop operated by Mrs. Lewis Redden and the rear is a modern tavern, "The Fo-c-sle". Mr. Leo Hogan of Halifax is proprietor of the tavern and owner of the building.

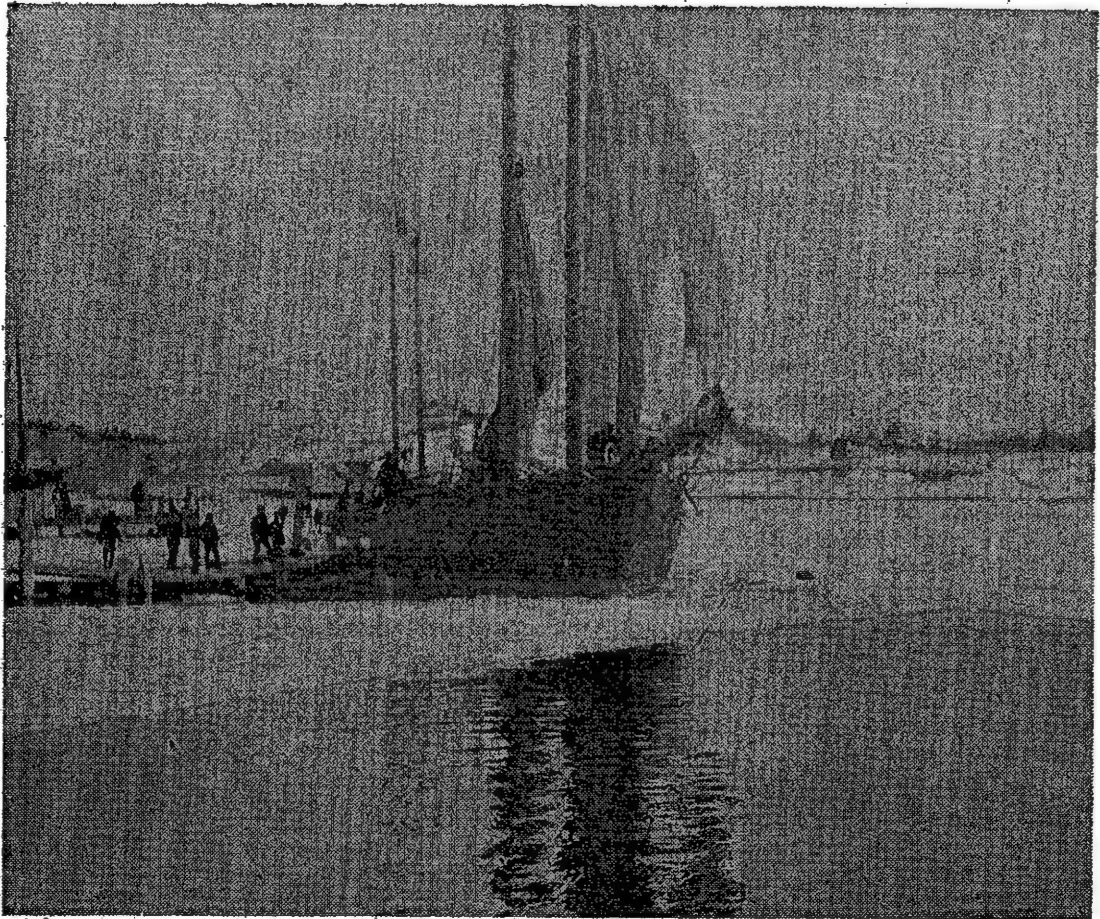
Martin Zinck, a native of Blandford, came to Chester in the latter part of the previous century, he operated a shoe repair and shoe making business on King Street. About the year 1900, with his son, Percy, he opened a clothing store on Duke Street known as "Martin Zinck & Son." Later this store was taken over by a son, Harvey, who developed it into a well patronized business dealing in men's, women's and children's clothing, known as "The H. S. Zinck Store". At his death in 1953 the operation of the store was assumed by his son, Murray.

Mr. Thomas Gorman opened his dry goods and general store on Queen Street about 1880. Later in the early 1900's his son, Eustace, took over operation of the store and continued in business until 1925 when he retired due to ill health. Mr. Eustace Gorman died in 1932.

The store now known as Redden's Hardware originated about 1895 when James Redden who had been operating a tin shop extended his business to include the sale of hardware. Later he was joined by his son, Orville, and the business was known as "Jas. L. Redden & Son." Orville Redden conducted the business until a few years before his death in 1940, when it was taken over by his son, Lewis, who conducts the successful "Redden's Hardware", in operation about seventy-two years in Chester.

Stanley and Owen Zinck learned the shoe making trade with their father, Martin Zinck. They built their own store on Queen Street in the last decade of the previous century and went into the sale and repair of shoes. When Stanley died in 1909 the successful business was carried on by Owen Zinck until shortly before his death in 1944. He was assisted by his son, Gerald, who operated the store until 1959. He enlarged the building making living quarters on the second floor. The store is now occupied by Earle Morash Insurance Associates.

The store at the corner of King and Pleasant Streets was first opened about 1920 by Miss Susan Mitchell, dealing in imported china, pottery, gift wares and handicrafts. Hooked rugs made by women of the surrounding district were popular with the summer tourist. Miss Mitchell married Dr. E. E. Daley, Baptist Minister and in 1947 sold her business to Murray Barkhouse who gave it its present name of "The Warp and Woof".



SAND AND GRAVEL BOAT

Elsie F. owned by James Freda at Wm. Robinson wharf. Property of Arthur Freda.

CHESTER SAND & GRAVEL CO.

The islands of Chester Bay and Mahone Bay have long been famous for the fine grade of sand found on them. During the middle and latter part of the nineteenth century much demand was made from the City of Halifax for this sand. It was used for concrete buildings and for roads and walks. Mr. Enoch Mason, who lived on Masons Island supplied the sand for the dry docks being built at Halifax in 1897.

His son-in-law, James Freda of Chester, formed the "Chester Sand & Gravel Co." for the purpose of transporting sand from Masons and other islands, Rafuse, Saddle and Spectacle were all good sources for the material. Mr. Freda supplied the sand for the concrete to build the high railroad embankment at the old North Station at Richmond, Halifax. He also had a contract with the City of Halifax to supply sand for their various building needs.

About 1900 Mr. Freda bought a large schooner called the City Queen, had her rebuilt for the sand carrying trade at Chester Basin and re-rigged at Robinson's wharf by a rigger from Lunenburg. This schooner was renamed the "Elsie F." in honor of Mr. Freda's daughter. Later he had another schooner, the J. C. Williams, skippered by his son Guy. At various times he would hire tugs from the Larders who were in the diving business.

Loading and transporting the sand was hard work by present day standards. All digging and wheeling was done by hand. The barrows were loaded and pushed along a ramp to the side of the vessel into the hold. Arthur Freda, a son, tells of being punished for not attending school. He had to pick roots and debris from the barrows of sand. When the schooner returned from Halifax her holds were filled with freight and a busy time ensued at Robinson's wharf. Men with flat wagons earned a dollar hauling the goods to their destination. Small boys made a cent a barrel pushing flour etc. from the wharf to Mr. Robinson's warehouse.

"Capt." Freda also took along the occasional passenger and he served as errand boy for those not able to get to Halifax. One of the favors he was often asked to do was to have the large earthen jugs which the men brought to the wharf filled with whiskey from Kelly & Glassey Distillers.

Mr. Freda died at Chester in 1919 at the age of sixty-nine years. He was active in the schooner trade until several years before his death.*

*Information from Arthur Freda, son.

Mr. Norman Chandler was another vessel owner who plied the waters between Halifax and Chester with freight. He also took the occasional trip to Prince Edward Island for potatoes and vegetables.

Captain Chandler was born at Fox Point. His father was a native of England. Mr. Chandler lived at Fox Point until his marriage to Miss Ada May Baker of Tancook where he went to live for awhile. He owned an eighty foot fishing schooner and later a whaler named for his eldest son "Willie C." William Chandler was later to serve in the navy in both World Wars. He became a Captain in the R.C.N. He died in 1966.

While living at Tancook Norman Chandler was also a shoemaker, constructing high leather pull-on boots; these boots were very popular with the fishermen. Around 1900 he came to Chester and with his father operated a boarding house which later became part of the "Hackmatack Inn". Shortly after this he bought his home property at Garretts Cove, now commonly called "Chandler Settlement". Here he raised a family of four sons and three daughters.

His first schooner was the "Maggie B." and later he had another, the "Gladys M. Smith". His sons assisted him on the voyages. An interesting story is recounted by his son, Cecil. - Capt. Chandler, returning from Halifax one night, found the harbour frozen over and was obliged to leave his vessel moored off Fish Island. During the night a high wind broke the ice up and at daybreak he realized his vessel was being carried out to sea. Ignoring the danger, he ran over the ice floes after it. His family, watching from shore, lost sight of him and decided he had perished. Later they saw smoke coming from the chimney of the vessel and realized he was on board. He had overtaken the runaway ship inside Clay Island. Capt. Chandler retired at the age of seventy-three and lived to be ninety-one years old.*

"Golden Rule", another freight carrying vessel, was owned by Albert Barkhouse, Frank Mitchell and Edward Eisner. This vessel and many more served a useful purpose before the railroad came into use and also for some years afterward. Many hardships were endured on their trips such as breaking channels through the ice by hand. No ice breakers existed in those days.

*Information from Cecil Chandler, son.

EVANS FAMILY AND THEIR ENTERPRISES

David Evans, a native of Swansea, Wales, settled in Chester in 1805. He was a veteran of the British Navy, serving on the "Bellerophon" at the "Battle of the Nile". He was also at Copenhagen and Trafalgar. He married a granddaughter of Thomas Thompson, one of the first settlers. He followed the sea for a living and was in the habit of rowing to Dover in a flat bottomed boat. He kept up this practice until the year before his death.

When the privateer "Teazer" was blown up in Chester Harbour, David Evans was one of those who went to investigate the wreck. Two bodies were brought ashore and buried in St. Stephen cemetery just inside the fence on the corner facing Regent Street. Mr. Evans died in 1864, age eighty-seven years.

His son William lived in the house owned by his father at the head of the front cove. Miss Wilson and Miss Huey of Philadelphia bought it from later members of the Evans family for a summer home. William Evans also followed the sea, the name of his vessel was "British Tar". He lived to be ninety-eight years of age.

William's son David was fisheries officer at Chester in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Another son Martin owned the schooner "Vesta" and later the "C. U. Mader", which was lost at sea with all her crew. This happened around 1903. He was associated with his brother Archibald in the packing of lobsters from the waters of Chester Bay. They had a packing house at Cross Island. They also went to Newfoundland with the "Vesta" carrying lobsters aboard the vessel. Archibald Evans lost his life by drowning, near Indian Point, while engaged in the lobster business.

After the loss of the "C. U. Mader", Martin Evans conducted a coal supply business for the town, using the large building on his wharf for storage, he also had sheds at the railroad station for receiving coal. This business was later carried on by his son Harry and now by his grandson Aubrey who also conducts a boat rental and government surplus store at the wharf. Martin Evans was considered a man of great wit. He lived to be ninety-three years of age. Austin and Harry were both associated with their father in his work.

Austin Evans and William Mitchell took over the small barber shop that had been operated by George Millett. It was on Richardson Hill and sported a red and white barber pole on the front. Later it was a store operated by a Mr. Mullins and then by Albert Corkum and his son Ray. After this Austin Evans and Harry Evans opened their barber shop on Pleasant Street. It was a meeting place for the men of the village, being equipped with pool tables. In the early years it also had an ice cream parlor and soda fountain. After Harry retired and Austin returned from World War I, Austin's son Clayton ran the barber shop until his death in 1953. He was assisted by a relative, Max Evans, who remained to work with Aubrey Evans. Aubrey kept the shop operating until he sold the property for the new Chester Pharmacy and office building to be erected. John Evans now has a barber shop in the new building. John and Max are grandsons of Archibald Evans. Max Evans lost his life by drowning in a sport fishing accident in 1961.

Austin Evans joined the Canadian Expeditionary Forces during World War I. He was fifty years old, and after serving in the trenches was returned home as "overage". His son Clayton enlisted for service overseas; he was only fifteen years of age. When he reached England, his father, who was then enduring the horrors of trench warfare, had him sent home as underage. He finished out the war in home defence service. Austin Evans served as Fishery Officer until he retired in 1935. He died at Camp Hill Hospital in 1964, age ninety-seven.

Owen W. Evans opened his store on Duke street in 1908 and continued to operate there a successful hardware business until 1949 when he retired. The store was taken over by his son-in-law and is now known as "M. L. Zinck Hardware". Owen Evans was a son of William Evans, Jr., and a great grandson of David Evans. He died in 1957.

LOBSTER INDUSTRIES

Until the early years of the century the Chester Bay and surrounding waters teemed with shell fish of various kinds, clams, scallops and lobsters. The scallops were of fine quality and were dragged for by hand from a boat with a scallop rake. Clams abounded around the shores. At one time in the early 1900's Clarence Freda had a small packing shop on his property, and James Stanford was also engaged in canning clams on Water Street.

Lobsters were especially plentiful and could be trapped in bountiful amounts. A packing house was situated to the south of where the Govern-

ment wharf is now located. It was operated around the last quarter of the previous century by the Portland Packing Company of Portland, Maine. Mr. Huxford was in charge and he brought his family with him from the United States. They are remembered by older residents as being very gracious people. Mrs. Huxford was possessed with a beautiful voice. She sang in the Baptist Choir.

Later at this same site George Mitchell and George Millett operated the Chester Packing Co. This building was destroyed by fire in the early 1900's. Around this time Albert Millett built a large lobster factory on the shore of the opposite side of the cove. He also had a cook house for his employees and a tin shop to manufacture cans. This building stood for some years before it was demolished. The cook house was remodeled into a fine residence by Mr. Millett's daughter.

James Redden was another lobster packer and carried on his business at Aspotogan.

Mr. Edmund Fader, now ninety-three years of age, tells of his venture in lobster shipping. He was the first to try to ship lobster live to Boston by train. This would have been around 1904 or 1905. The lobsters were packed alive in sea weed. Mr. Fader had great hopes for his enterprise but after making his first shipment the train service was halted for a time and he was left with a large supply of lobsters; these had to be unloaded at the local factory at a low price.

Lobsters, scallops and clams may still be found in the waters of Chester Bay but any fisherman will say they are not too plentiful.

The large building on Evans' wharf contained a fish market for many years. It was operated at different times by various proprietors, among them Ralph Barkhouse and Harold Hilchie who did business there for some years. At the end of World War II Mr. Hilchie's sons, Theodore and George returned from service and built a market on the Hilchie property on Water Street. Here they operate a modern establishment, distributing fish in large trucks to different parts of the province as well as looking after local needs.

Melbourne Bremner and his son Fred were the last operators of the fish market at Evan's wharf. After giving good service for many years Mr. Bremner is retired and Fred Bremner is with the Government Fishery Inspections.

BUILDING AND WOODWORKING

Many boats were built at Chester. William Marvin, who died in 1872 and Charles Walthers, who died in 1894, were early builders. Charles Hilchey, who died in 1877, built over three hundred boats. His son Samuel built over one hundred. In 1894 he built twenty centre boards and seine boats, twelve dories. His boat shop stood where the Chester Yacht Club now is and the club house is part of the original structure.

The Stanford Boat Building Co. was organized in 1894 by Hugh Stanford. He purchased the grist mill property from John Swinehamer, Sr. and erected a building for the manufacturing of small boats and dories. It was later sold to his brother John who carried on a wood working business. He built a steam mill between the road and the main building. In September 1901 the plant was destroyed by fire and Mr. Stanford then continued his business at the home place at the head of the lake. The property was later sold to Forman Hawboldt to erect his foundry business.

Much ship building also took place in the surrounding territory, at Martin's River, Chester Basin and Marriotts Cove.

A builder in the early part of the twentieth century was Nathaniel Robinson. He was a builder of boats and yachts and also built many fine homes. The Chester Baptist church was built under his supervision. He died in 1923.

Mr. John Etter, a descendant of Loyalists stock, was another builder of earlier days. Most of the flat roofed houses found throughout our village were built by him. He was the son of Daniel Etter who was also a builder.

George Webber, son of Lorenzo Webber, carried on a successful carpentry shop at Chester for over sixty-five years. He died in 1956. His son Earle present Warden of the Municipality of Chester now operates a shoe store in the large building his father owned.

JOHN BARKHOUSE BOAT BUILDER

Mr. John Barkhouse started his boat building career in 1917. Previous to this he had the misfortune to lose four fingers of his left hand while working at Stanford's Mill. In 1919 he married Miss Beulah Wilson of Tan-cook Island.

Mr. Barkhouse first had a boat shop on his home property in Chester but later located on the waterfront at East Chester near where the "Buccaneer Motel" stands. He estimates he has turned out approximately four hundred boats of various shapes and sizes, from dories and row boats to seventy foot fishing boats, to luxury cruisers and yachts, for customers in all walks of life in all parts of the country.

One of the highlights of his boat building career was the building and launching of eleven craft for members of the Armdale Yacht Club. These boats were designed by Mr. Wm. Roue and were known as Bluenose No. 1 Design Class. They were named to perpetuate the racing schooner Bluenose lost off Haiti. These boats were launched at his East Chester yard in June 1946; the occasion was a proud one for Mr. Barkhouse. The launching was attended by many notables in yachting circles at that time. Following this event eight more orders were received for like craft.

The largest fishing boat he built was a seventy foot sword fisher for Lewis Miller.

Mr. Barkhouse is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Albert Barkhouse of Chester and a direct descendant of Henry Morgan, who came here in 1816.

He is now seventy-three years old and still active at his trade. He is assisted by his sons, Lloyd and Donald, to whom he has imparted much of his skill. They were employed as shipwrights with the R.C.N. during the war. At that time Mr. Barkhouse was a foreman at Industrial Shipping at Mahone Bay.

CHESTER SEA CRAFTS

The ship building firm known as "Chester Sea Craft" was formed at the close of World War II by Perry Stevens and his sons, Emery and Gerald. Mr. Stevens a native of Tancook Island is descended from a long line of boat builders. The first hull was laid in 1946. Sail boats, schooners, cruisers, sloops, etc. followed. Many were built for well known personages and were shipped to all parts of Canada, United States and Nassau. James Cagney, movie actor, was one of the notables who had a boat built at this yard.

Of especial note was a thirty foot sail boat the "Saint Elizabeth" designed by her owner and built at Chester Sea Craft yard. She was sailed across the Atlantic single-handed by her owner, twenty-six year old Ian Nicholson. He sailed her into Weymouth Harbor, England, forty days out of Chester. This was the first Canadian-built boat to cross the Atlantic manned by one man and the first to set out from Canada on such a trip.

In 1958 the boat yard was sold to other interests. It is now operated by Mr. Alan Mitchell.

After the Chester Sea Craft was sold by the Stevens family, Gerald Stevens, a fourth generation boat builder, wanting to keep active in the work started building at Middle River. Here he has been successful and has produced about twenty boats of various types, schooners, sloops, cruisers and whalers. One of the whalers built at this yard has been on a world cruise for three years, and when last heard from was in Italy.

HEISLER BOAT BUILDER

Mr. Reuben Heisler a native of Tancook Island erected his boat building shop on the back harbour cove in 1924. Here Mr. Heisler carried on a successful business until his death in 1946. Many fine craft of all types were built here and some of the finest yachts sailing from the Chester Yacht Club were produced by the Heislars. These yachts brought many honors to their owners. Included among them are these familiar names: "High Tide", "White Heather", "Dixie", "Cyclone" as well as many others. The yacht Cyclone was raced at Bermuda by her owner, Mr. J. Wells.

After Mr. Heisler's death his sons continued in the business until 1950.

Mr. Benjamin Heisler is still active at his trade and has the honor of being the builder of the "Wm. Moir", a craft which captured the "Schooner Trophy" in the season of 1966.

E. HUME & SON

In the year 1924, Ephriam Hume built on his property at the head of the Back Cove, a small wood-working factory. He and his son Arnold went into business filling orders for custom made furniture. This business was registered as E. Hume & Son. They made furniture for a large number of the summer tourist homes in Chester; mostly dining room and bedroom furniture pieces. The Early American designs were the most favored; a chest-of-drawers, rocking-chairs and spooled beds. The spooling work was done on a hand-turned lathe. Rush seated chairs and benches were also popular items. The rushes were gathered from the marshes, dried on racks, and used to weave a sturdy durable seat. This was one of the crafts of the early settlers, and points out to us the ability of the pioneers to make use of the things nature provided for them as a means of satisfying their needs.

Mr. Hume was a direct descendant of James Hume, a Scotsman, one of the early settlers of Scotch Cove (later East Chester). He learned the art of rush-work from his father and passed this knowledge on to his son Arnold.

E. Hume & Son received orders and shipped furniture to different parts of Canada, United States, England and the British West Indies as well as places through the province and close to home.

Mr. Ephriam Hume died in 1943. His son Arnold continues to carry on the business, still registered as E. Hume & Son. Today it is mostly a window sash and door factory.

DOUGLAS MORASH'S WORKSHOP

Mr. Douglas Morash, with a workshop at the head of the front cove, has turned out a very fine style of hand made furniture in the forty-five years he conducted his business. Skilled in the art of restoring and refinishing furniture, his services have been in great demand. A man of great talent artistically he also has an exceptional ability for arithmetic. He attended school for only two years but he is able to figure and do calculations that stump some scholars. He retired from work two years ago and is now developing an interesting hobby of intricate carving, in wood, of pictures.

Mr. Morash is eighty-two years of age. He is married to the former Nellie Evans. They have two sons, Eugene, who is Post Master at Chester, and Douglas Jr.

BLACKSMITHS

Timothy Lynch had a blacksmith shop at Chester. This was mentioned in returns for 1793.*

Smiths Forge — Robert Smith first operated his blacksmith shop in the north end of Chester about the year 1846. It had been in continuous operation since that time and occupies the same building to the present day. He was followed in the trade by his son Cottnam.

When Mr. Cottnam Smith was appointed Town Clerk and Magistrate his son Arthur continued in the little blacksmith shop. About 1918 Mr. Smith started making fireplace equipment for the homes of summer tourists. This soon grew into a full time business replacing the shoeing of horses which by this time were not so much used.

✓ After the war, in 1946, Stewart Smith joined his father and introduced a new line of hand wrought iron work. This fine work has been displayed, and won prizes, at the Canadian National Exhibition. It has been displayed at Rockefeller Center in New York, and was chosen by the Federal Government to be shown at the Handcraft Guild in Scotland and at various places throughout the world.

Stewart Smith calls his workshop "Smiths Forge".**

* * * * *

Mr. E. Cullen (Cul) Smith a son of Robert Smith was a blacksmith of the late 1800's and early 1900's. His shop was in the building on the Valley Road. This building was later converted to the "Orange Hall".

Ira Walker was another blacksmith with a forge on the Valley Road. His shop was destroyed by fire.

Mr. Thomas Corkum's blacksmith shop in Chester was a well known spot during the 1900's. He started work with 'Cul' Smith when he was seventeen years old and he served the public well for sixty-nine years. Mr. Corkum retired when he was eighty-six years of age.

Winton Smith, son of Robert Smith, was a blacksmith of the latter half of the previous century. His shop was adjacent to the Masonic Hall where Frank Hawboldt's house now stands.

Elias Cleveland operated a blacksmith shop at the head of the Front Cove. It was located where P. Junger boat house stands.

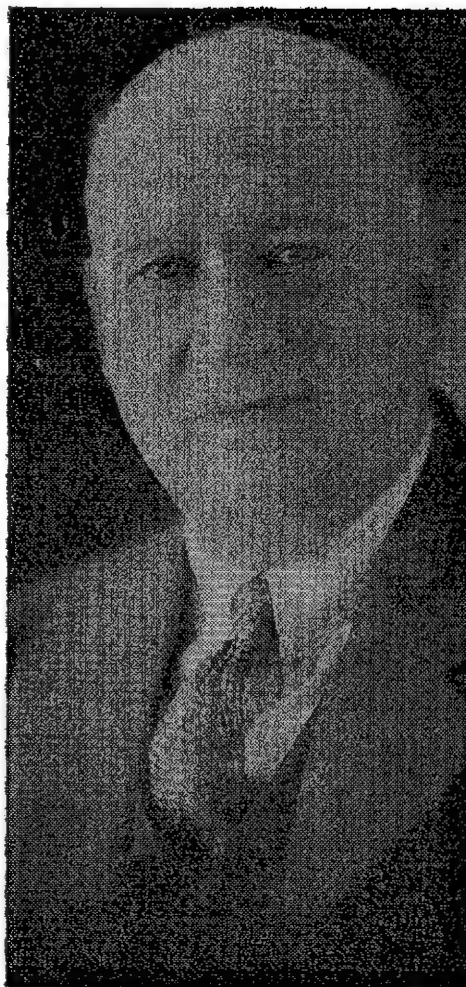
* DesBrisays History

** Stewart Smith, great grandson of Robert Smith.

HAWBOLDT INDUSTRIES

Starting in 1906, Mr. Forman Hawboldt, with his brother-in-law, Harry Evans, operated a machine shop in his barn. The business was known as "Hawboldt & Evans". Here Mr. Hawboldt, who was mechanically inclined from boyhood, started experimenting with the building of a gasoline engine. Casting was done in the premises and the resulting engine, known as the "Canadian Standard", soon became popular with fishermen in the surrounding district, and for many years throughout Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

In 1912 Mr. Hawboldt, now in business alone, purchased the property owned by John Stanford and erected his new foundry and machine shop. Here he manufactured his engines, propellers and marine supplies and operated a machine shop. He also supplied water to the Hackmatack Inn and in 1914 began to lay pipes to supply water during the spring to fall season to homes in the village. In order to obtain more pressure for his water supply he built a steel tower one hundred twenty feet high with a large tank on top. This tower was destroyed by a severe wind storm in 1916. The water service continued until 1959 when the pipes became unserviceable and the cost of replacing the line was not considered profitable.



FORMAN HAWBOLDT

Hawboldt Industries

In 1919 the business was converted into a joint stock company known as Hawboldt Gas Engines, Limited with Mr. W. H. Faltenhine as Manager. This phase of the business was short lived as the main building was destroyed by fire on September 20, 1920. Mr. Hawboldt then regained possession of the business, rebuilt and again operated until 1948 when he retired leaving his sons in possession with Frank Hawboldt as Manager.

The manufacturing of engines was discontinued about 1948. Fishermen were then using a heavier type of engine. Propellers and marine supplies were manufactured and for several years a hot air furnace. Since 1951 gymnasium equipment for the High Schools of the Maritime Provinces has been manufactured here.

In 1966 Mr. Fred Porter purchased the business and the name was changed to "Hawboldt Industries".

Mr. Forman Hawboldt was a direct descendant of Gotlieb Hawboldt who settled in Chester in 1782. He was born at Marriott's Cove in 1876, son of David and Mary Hennigar Hawboldt. He married Eva Evans in 1902. They had two sons and three daughters.

For some years Mr. Hawboldt owned a jewellery store on Queen Street. He was founder and owner of Hawboldt Gas Engines and Chester Water Supply System, Manager and Director of Chester Light & Power Company until the sale to Avon River Power Co., and Member of Chester Council 1918-1921.

Mr. Hawboldt died at Chester in 1951.

CHESTER LIGHT & POWER CO.

In 1924 Mr. Forman Hawboldt started advocating the idea of bringing electricity to Chester from the East River Falls. He gained support for his plan and a stock company was incorporated by an Act of the Legislature (Chapter 125 of the Acts of 1924) granted to F. C. Hawboldt, Carroll Manning, Owen Zinck, J. Roy Hennigar, Harold Hilchie and Eugene Publicover.

Mr. Hawboldt and Mr. Cottnam Smith had purchased the land at East River from Mr. John Meisner in advance. This was transferred to the Company. Officers were — Mr. Owen Zinck, President; F. C. Hawboldt, C. Manning, J. R. Hennigar and Harold Hilchie, Directors. Shares sold at one hundred dollars per share with no guarantee of interest or dividends. Work started after \$16,000. worth of shares were sold. L. H. Wheaton was engaged to draw up plans for the dams and power house.

Mr. Hawboldt undertook the supervising of the building of dams, building of power house and dwelling house, installation of machinery and the laying of the power lines throughout the village. Many obstacles were to be overcome before the lights were turned on September 6, 1925. The Company was later purchased by the Avon River Power Co. in 1929 and was taken over by the Nova Scotia Light & Power Company as a subsidiary in the 1930's.

In the early 1950's it became known as a part of the Nova Scotia Light & Power and use of the original name was discontinued.

A visitor to the East River Falls would find little to remind them of the ambitious dreams of these Chester men: only part of the dam remains. Great credit must be given to those who brought the use of electricity to Chester many years before its use became general throughout the Province.

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA

In the first decade of this century a great need arose for a bank to handle the business affairs of the community. Some of the Banks hesitated to open a branch here fearing the volume of business was not enough. Finally in 1913 the Bank of Nova Scotia opened a branch office located in the annex of the Lovett House. This house has recently been torn down. The first Manager was Mr. Pope followed by Mr. Ross and about 1917 by Mr. Strong who remained until 1923. Mr. Bonnezen followed him and he spent his years of retirement in Chester. The early managers worked hard to establish a successful Branch Bank.

Around 1922 the house formerly owned by Dr. Hebb was purchased by the Bank of Nova Scotia and the first floor used for offices, the upstairs was an apartment for the Manager. This building now belongs to Chester Municipality and houses the Municipal office and Registry of Deeds. Business was transacted there until 1957 when the new and modern bank building on Pleasant Street was opened.

Chester natives who have made banking their career started at the local Bank of Nova Scotia and have gone on to be managers or hold other important positions are: Frank Nauss, Manager; Horace Millett, Manager; Keith Mitchell, Inspector and Manager; James Mitchell, Manager; Walter Bond, Asst. General Manager; Roy Chandler, Manager; Angus Webber, Manager, and Kingsley Hume, Inspector and Manager.

ANIL HARDBOARD, LTD.

Construction of the new Anil Hardboard Plant at East River began in 1966. The plant will manufacture a variety of hardboards from Nova Scotia hardwood, much of it waste material until now.

Production is expected to begin early in 1967. Capacity will be 50,000 tons of hardboard a year, about eighty per cent to be exported.

The plant is being constructed on a 1200 acre site a few miles from Chester. It is a subsidiary of Anil Hardboard Ltd. of Bombay, India, and is backed by Industrial Estates of the Provincial Government. The total capital outlay will be about \$8,500,000. The main building will be one thousand seventy feet long and three hundred and thirty feet wide.

About two hundred persons will be employed at the plant and four or five hundred in wood cutting, logging, transport and related operations.

The construction of this large plant is expected to be a great boost to the economy of Chester and the surrounding territory which have long been in need of industrial expansion.

HOTELS CHESTER, NOVA SCOTIA

One of the earliest hotels was "The Mulgrave". It was built and managed by Mr. David Whitford, who was born in April, 1804, the son of Thomas Whitford, who was born at Chester, N.S., in 1789. Dave, (as he was called), married Susan Millett, a daughter of Jacob Millett of Chester Grant.

This hotel was built in the 1820's, a four story structure including the basement, which was large and dingy with small windows - a kitchen where the food was prepared and cooked to be served in a dining room upstairs. In the early days food was cooked over the fireplace, which was equipped for the purpose.

A special room in the basement was the bakery, with the built-in brick bake-oven and two large wooden tubs built in for mixing bread - each tub would hold twenty-five or more pounds of flour. Bake-ovens were large and held many loaves or bread at one time and twelve or sixteen pies at once.

The drawing room at the left of the front entrance was used for the entertainment of guests, from which a door led to the dining room at the back of the house overlooking the front harbour. At the right was a shop where Mr. Whitford sold patent medicines, etc. Behind the shop was the office and smoking room. A hallway ran from front to back with a stairway in the front hall. Upstairs were four large bedrooms - fireplaces in all these rooms. The whole house was heated with fireplaces.

It was operated as one of the well known inns, patronized by travellers along the South Shore. Most travelling was done by horse and wagon, or sleigh in winter, although sailing vessels carried passengers.

A large stable was maintained where the traveller could stable his horse for the night. A man was always in attendance at the stable, who would feed the horses and give general care to them. In those days oxen were used for transportation and the mails were carried on horseback.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitford had ten children who helped with the operation of the Inn. Many guests remained at the Inn the year round.

The family bedrooms were on the third floor, or attic, of four smaller rooms. Two of these rooms were lighted by skylights, (a window in the roof).

About the middle of the century, Mr. Whitford added to his hotel a building as big as the original, a fine basement with a shop on the street, also two family rooms. Upstairs a large dining room and sewing room. A hall and winding stairway to the third floor. On the second floor two large pretentious parlors with folding doors between on the front. At the back of the house overlooking the water, three bedrooms were added, as well as four on the third floor. These rooms were all well furnished, many floors were carpeted. Pitchers and basins were in every bedroom, water had to be carried from a well to the upstairs. Oil lamps and candles provided the light at night - 30 rooms in all.

After the death of Mr. Whitford's first wife, he married a widow, Mrs. Jane Evans, who continued managing the hotel with him.

At most hotels in this area cows were kept to provide milk, cream and butter. Pigs too were necessary to provide salt pork for the whole year. Hams were smoked in the chimneys (of wood fires) suspended from the top on a wire. Geese were most necessary too, because of the practice of down plucking for the making of feather beds and pillows. The feather beds were used as a mattress and also on top of the bed. Most householders kept a few sheep to supply wool, much needed, which was cut off the sheep every spring, washed, and dried on the grass, then taken to a carding mill so it could be spun into yarn. It was colored with home dyeing made from natural bark from trees - onion skins made yellow dye. Weaving was done by our local women who were clever needle workers too, embroidery, knitted lace, quilts of patchwork and applique designs. These all enhanced the rooms of the guests at hotels. Hooking mats was first done with scissors.

From 1906 to 1911 Mr. and Mrs. William Mitchell operated the Inn. The name was changed to "Prince Arthur". Under the old name the Inn had an interesting history - no doubt intriguing tales could be told of every one of the thirty rooms.

There were five Mitchell girls and two boys, who all had their chores and there were many. The house was redecorated and remodelled. The house kitchen was moved from the basement upstairs with a coal burning stove. Plumbing was installed - the salt water being pumped by hand from the harbour to a tank upstairs. A veranda was added to the back overlooking the beautiful harbour, which was a picture with boats dotted all around. Boats were available at the wharf adjacent to the property.

The summer season brought a great many visitors who enjoyed the beautiful atmosphere and were never "lost" for something to do. There were many tennis courts, bathing was enjoyed at a public beach run by Mrs. Clarence Freda on the west side of the peninsula. Many people went there to bathe in the salt water with the use of a bathhouse for ten cents. Many vacationers enjoyed rowing every day, exploring different places, hunting sea shells and fishing for flounders.

Horseback riding was enjoyed and local stables kept saddle horses for hire. There were many beautiful walks - automobiles were not common at this time.

One night each week the Chester Cornet Band would hold a concert at their stand on Queen Street. The Churches all held Garden Parties in the parsonage yards, where supper would be served and a band concert in the evening. The visitors enjoyed these affairs.

In 1911 the Mitchell family purchased Mrs. MacMinn's boarding house and moved from the Prince Arthur. They named the guest house "Mitchell House" which continues as such to this day.

In 1917 the Prince Arthur was purchased by Mrs. Charles Wurts of Philadelphia, who came to Chester as a baby with her parents. She was one

of the three daughters of Mr. and Mrs. John Wister. Mr. and Mrs. Wurts had two sons and two daughters, all of whom spent all their summers at Chester. This was to be her private home, which she used until her death in the 1950's. Her son Stuart had the house demolished in 1959.

THE LOVETT HOUSE

In the year 1823 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lovett built this house as a commercial hotel, on a corner lot near the salt water, on the front harbour. He was proprietor for many years, catering to the travelling public. It was open the year round and was the stage coach stop from Halifax, where the horses would be stabled for the night - usually four horses. The passengers would (if going on further the next day), stay over night at the Lovett House. During the summer season tourists from Europe and the United States were accommodated. Fishing attracted men from the United States to Chester, as the sea fishing, as well as trout fishing in lakes and rivers, was unequalled anywhere.

Some of these tourists came as early as 1850. They came by steamers from Boston, New York and Philadelphia to Halifax and on to Chester fifty miles by stage, or quite often by sailing vessels.

Mr. and Mrs. Lovett were assisted in operating this hotel by his niece, Miss Florence Lovett, who took charge of the cooking and preparation of food. With business growing, a large house across the street on the opposite corner was purchased. It was built some years previous by an Englishman, John Symond, who came to Canada and spent a lot of money building this fine house, with basement and three floors. He later termed it his "Castle of Folly". Hand carved wood decorated the large living room, which made a handsome picture for dancing and social parties held there. This house accommodated a great many guests to sleeping rooms. It was called "The Annex". The guests would come to the hotel for meals at the sound of a big hand bell, which would be rung. In addition there was a smaller house near the water front purchased, and used for sleeping accommodations also.

In the early 1880's Florence Lovett was married to Leander Manning of Bridgewater who came to manage the hotel. Mrs. Charles Lovett outlived her husband and lived on at the hotel until her death. Mr. and Mrs. Manning had seven children.

The number of tourists became greater and an addition to the house was built. This included a larger dining room and kitchen space, as well as bedrooms upstairs.

The hotel was noted for good food, home made bread and pies were a specialty. All cooking was done by country women. They kept many cows to supply milk, cream and butter, also hens and pigs all supplying necessary food. The kitchen garden produced many kinds of vegetables fresh for the table, apples and small fruits, berries, etc. were also grown. As there were no markets then from which to buy these things, supplies (before the railroad), were brought from Halifax by vessels, which made regular trips from Chester.

At this delightful resort by the sea, many families came to spend the entire summer. Boats were supplied by the hotels for sailing and rowing on the bay, also canoes. Many families went sailing every day when the weather was fine. A boat with captain was often engaged for the season. There are many islands in the bay - 365 in all - and such a joy to visit and enjoy. A great experience for the visitor. Having picnics on an island was a popular outing. The hotels would pack lunch baskets for their guests. Digging clams too was a favourite sport and cooked over the bonfire made delicious eating. Bathing in the sea and lolling on the rocks and sand was a healthful pastime.

Mr. Manning was an ardent horseman and kept several horses all the time. He raised racing horses and indulged in the sport of racing. Horse and carriage driving was popular for those wishing to go from one place to another within the area. After railway service was started in 1904, these horse drawn carriages met every train coming in, with passengers to convey to the Lovett House.

This was a popular winter hotel too, when excursions would come from Bridgewater and other nearby towns. Often a band accompanied the guests and provided entertainment. A bountiful supper would be served and speeches enjoyed.

The travelling salesmen all stopped at this hotel, as excellent sample rooms were provided where merchandise was displayed for buyers.

This hotel was one of the most interesting and oldest in Nova Scotia, being owned and operated by Lovetts and Lovett relatives continuously from 1823 to 1928.

The hotel was bought by Kenneth Hutchins of Boston in 1929, who re-decorated and modernized extensively. He operated it for ten years unsuccessfully - when World War II was declared.

In 1939 the Lovett House was offered for sale. Mrs. Charles Wurts of Philadelphia purchased it, with all of the buildings, and operated it during the War years when the hotel situation was so critical. Later she sold the two large buildings to Graham Fraser of Halifax, retaining the property on the waterfront for her own family. In March of 1957 the old hotel changed hands again. The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch No. 44, used it as a hall for several years. It was demolished in 1964 and the Annex was demolished in 1966.

THE HACKMATAK INN

About 1898 Professor Lindley Keasbey of Pennsylvania, U.S.A, came to Chester as a tourist and thought it a great opportunity to establish a hotel for summer guests.

He bought land on a hill overlooking the beautiful back harbour with many islands and brilliant sunsets across the water. On this land stood a large building which had been used as a church in the earlier days. The building was moved to the center of the lot, set on a foundation and reno-

vated to suit this purpose. Fireplaces were built in, large verandas across the front were added where guests could enjoy the outdoors. Local help was employed for cooking and general housework. Ice was stored in a small building at the back, also a livery stable where a horse and carriage could be obtained from Mr. George Mitchell. In 1904 two large "wings" were built on the original, one at the North and one South. These two extensions were three stories high, with bedrooms on the second and third floors. The old part of the building served as the entrance area with lounge, living rooms and office. Large verandas were included on these extensions.

A large dining room accommodated one hundred people. A highlight on Saturday nights was dancing, when the dining room was turned into a dance hall. A local orchestra provided the music, Mr. Perlie Nauss the violin and Miss Ina Nauss the piano.

Many guests were accommodated to sleeping rooms in private homes near the hotel, where they took their meals. The hotel purchased several small homes near by to use for guest living quarters, as many families stayed on all summer.

Men who owned sailboats would be on hand at the wharf every day, to hire their boats for sailing and deep sea fishing.

Many noted people stayed at this hotel in this delightful resort by the sea, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt, when he was a young man cruising in his yacht and spent a holiday here.

Mr. Keasbey employed many managers from time to time. Mr. Ned Allen was the last one to run it under Mr. Keasbey and he fell from his horse while riding and died in 1916.

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Manning took over and managed this hotel from 1917 to 1941, when the Norwegian Government bought this large building to use as a convalescent home for Norwegian seamen who were on this side of the Atlantic during World War II. After the War when the building was no longer needed for the seamen, it was turned into a hotel again and purchased by M. M. Allen of Montreal, in partnership with George Baker of Yarmouth, N.S., who operated the hotel for several years, when later it was condemned and torn down.

It was discovered the old part used as a church was built in the early 1800's.

PINEHURST INN

A home built by Mr. John Stanford Sr., located at the head of a small lake called Stanford's Lake, about one mile from the Village. Near the house was a lumbering mill, which was started in the earlier days as a tannery.

Mr. Stanford came to Chester as a young man from Wales and married Mary Jane Lynch in 1840. This house was of unusual style, the first storey

was built of cut stone with small recessed windows, with a basement at the back part. The second storey was of wood. The kitchen and dining rooms were on the first floor. Living rooms and bedrooms were upstairs. The rooms all had fireplaces. Beautiful hand painted pictures done by Miss Jennie Stanford, a daughter, adorned the walls. Hand hooked rugs of wool covered the floors of many rooms.

Miss Alma Stanford, a daughter, had her own cottage with a loom installed, which was used for weaving wool blankets and such.

Built-in bake ovens were used in the early days. A large family, eleven children, were raised by Mr. and Mrs. Stanford.

In the late 1800's Mr. Stanford died and the remains buried on his own property (and are still there to this day). "Honesty" was his motto.

After the death of their father, Mr. John Stanford Jr. and Miss Jenny Stanford turned the large house into an Inn, accommodating summer tourists. Located among the wooded hills, many paths and streams made roving a pleasure. Beautiful surroundings and gardens attracted many people. Delicious home cooked food was enjoyed. Having a small farm with cows, butter and cream were plentiful, also their own gardens with an abundance of vegetables and small fruits. Amidst attractive surroundings, tea was served in the garden every day, with curd and raspberry preserves a specialty.

Cottages were built near the house to be used for sleeping accommodations. Tennis courts were also provided, as well as a horse and buggy to bring guests to the Village, or to drive on the country roads.

At this Inn many tourists have found calm and peace, amidst the invigorating sea air, tempered by the ozone of pine and spruce woods. To those who were in pursuit of health, many have come to this Inn where health was restored. Great chances of rest of brain just to sit by the side of the lake, or to row a boat on the lake, coupled with the warm welcome and kindly sympathy of the Stanfords, attracted these people.

Many prominent people spent the summer here. The whole family is now gone and the property has passed into the hands of strangers.

THE WINDJAMMER MOTEL AND RESTAURANT

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Haack came from Bridgewater to Chester to establish a motel. They chose land near the edge, and on the west side of Stanford's Lake. This land was owned by Harry Stevens and had long been in the Stevens' family.

The location is about 1½ miles from the Village and near the main highway.

There are fourteen units and the motel is open the year round to the travelling public. It is modern with a TV and radio in each unit. A most

attractive lounge for the use of guests overlooks the lake. The motel was built and opened to the public for business in October 1957.

After a few years of operation, the need for a restaurant was evident. A building was put up by Mr. Haack and opened in 1962 for this purpose, which is managed and operated by Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Masland, who serve excellent meals in a most attractive place.

"SWORD AND ANCHOR"

A very old private home, built by a man by the name of Gowan in the early 1800's. The house, a beautiful large structure, stood in wide grounds, which ran to the harbour front and also adjoined the parade. A horse stable and coach house stood near by.

This property has been occupied over the years by many families, Brown, McCurdy, Allen and Look are but a few.

In 1950's it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Bryan of Toronto, who turned it into a hotel and ran it for a few years. Their slogan "The Home of Gracious Living". The house had a very large fireplace with beautiful carved wood finishing.

It is now owned by Col. Sidney Oland of Halifax, who still operates it as a hotel under outside management.

OWLS HEAD TUNA CAMP

Mr. Philip H. Moore, a promoter and writer, was born at Boston and educated at Harvard University. He came to Lunenburg County in the early 1900's and was interested in gold mining, which was carried on at Chester Basin at that time. He first settled there and later in Chester. In the 1930's he built a large Club House, with cabins near by, for summer tourists accommodation. This was located at Lower East Chester, right near the water's edge, where there was a wharf with boats for tuna fishing (deep sea).

In the large Club House meals were served downstairs and upstairs were many bedrooms. The Club House was built in rustic style, with a large fireplace which burned four-foot logs. This Club was run by Mr. & Mrs. Moore for several years, after which it was sold to a Dartmouth man who changed the name to "Buccaneer Lodge and Cabins". Many more cabins have been built, some equipped for housekeeping, which are greatly enjoyed. A thriving business is enjoyed.

THE COLE HOUSE

In the 1890's Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Cole built a fine new house overlooking the front harbour. They decided to take boarders during the summer tourist season. Mrs. Cole was an excellent cook and was noted for serving good meals. She was also an expert needlewoman and specialized in quilt making. These quilts were often used as spreads on the beds of guests.

Many families from the United States came for the whole summer to the Cole House. The old home of Mr. Cole's father stood on the same property and was remodelled into sleeping rooms for guests. Also a large veranda overlooking the bay was built and greatly used, as was a tennis court.

This house was open during World War II to service men on leave from Halifax and was called "a home away from home".

QUARTERDECK

*admiral
now home 2 D. Piers*

In the early years of World War II, Mrs. Caroline Redden opened a guest house in the old Redden home, which had been in the family for 100 years or more.

A beautiful location near the water's edge on the front harbour. To sit in the sun-room one was given the feeling of being on a boat, hence the name "Quarterdeck". The house was modernized with sun-room and decks and was furnished with choice antiques. It was also extended to make extra kitchen and dining space.

After some years of operation, however, the name and property passed from the possession of the Redden family and is now occupied as a family residence.

* * * * *

There were many smaller private homes where paying guests were accommodated to rooms and board. To name some of them at least.

Chester House
Lake View
Poplar Cottage
A. G. Millett
Martin Zinck
Mrs. Frank Mitchell
Mrs. Charles Williams
Mrs. J. McMin
Mrs. Arch Evans
Mrs. Cotnam Smith
Sunny Cafe
Casa Blanca (Guest House in business since 1945.)

Mrs. James Stanford
Mrs. Arthur Hume
Mrs. David Evans
Sunset Cottage
Mrs. Norman Chandler
Mrs. R. Butler
The Mountain Ash Lodge
The Swedish Inn
The Venture
Zinck House

THE STORY OF THE COLUMBIA HOUSE, CHESTER

The story of the Columbia House is essentially the story of Chester as a Summer Resort. It was the first hotel in Chester to cater almost exclusively to United States summer visitors and many notable United States citizens, down through the years, had made it their summer home. At the time it was destroyed by an incendiary fire in April, 1964, it was 178 years old.

The house was built for Michael Schmitz, a native of Frankfurt, Ger-

many, and in time, was given to his godson, Edward M. Robinson, Sr. At that time the Chester district was known as Shoreham. Godfather and godson are buried in St. Augustine's Cemetery, an iron railing with a tombstone marking their graves. Edward Robinson, Sr. was killed instantly when in his mid forties.

Michael Schmitz was one of the first merchants of Chester. Upon the death of Edward Robinson, Sr. the house became known as the Columbia House, the property of Edward M. Robinson, Jr. who lived there until his death in 1942. The property now belongs to Mrs. W. D. MacNeill, of Chester.

Edward Robinson, Jr., was largely responsible for the starting of Chester as a summer resort. He turned his house of twenty-one rooms into a hotel and through advertising in the more important United States newspapers, attracted summer visitors from the United States to Chester. The first summer visitors came to Halifax from New York by steamer and came to Chester by stagecoach. This was many years before the railroad was built. Among the early United States citizens to come here were General Theodore A. Bingham, later New York City Police Commissioner, Honourable Perry S. Heath, United States Postmaster General, Washington, D.C., Judge Joseph Hemphill of Westchester, Pennsylvania and Mrs. Zoe Valle Lightfoot of Bordeaux, France. Mrs. Lightfoot's home was later given to Chester by her sister, Mrs. Austin, of New York, and became the site of the present Chester Public Library.

Practically all the early summer residents of Chester made their first home at the Columbia House.

Much of the fine old furniture of the Columbia House came from England, a gift of the then Lord Beresford, and in that gift there hangs a tale. Lord Beresford came from Halifax to Chester by stagecoach, planning a fishing trip. He asked directions from a man whom he met on the road. This man was Edward Robinson, Sr. Mr. Robinson gave the required information and also engaged for Lord Beresford the services of a well-known Indian guide, Johnny Penhall. Mr. Robinson invited Lord Beresford to be his guest while in Chester. On his return to England Lord Beresford sent Mr. Robinson twelve pieces of mahogany furniture, including one round table, two card tables, two swan back lounges, six spoon back chairs and a sleigh back bed in appreciation of Mr. Robinson's hospitality.

An interesting story is connected with the early history of the Robinson house. When the house was being built for Michael Schmitz by local builders, Mr. Schmitz told the workmen to quit a little early. When the workmen arrived in the morning part of the masonry had been finished. Michael Schmitz, at that time, was thought to be quite a wealthy man and had several chests of Spanish doubleoons. Michael Schmitz was never known afterwards to have much money and the workmen thought he had cemented it in the wall after they left that night. The story was told many years afterwards by Gabriel Silver to Edward M. Robinson, Jr.

FOUNDING OF CHURCHES IN CHESTER

BAPTIST CHURCH

When the New England founders of Chester arrived in 1759 there came with them the Rev. John Seccombe. He was a minister of the Congregational Church. Until his death in 1792 Rev. Seccombe was a colorful figure in the church life of Halifax and Lunenburg Counties. He was an instrument in founding the Chester Baptist Church.

His ministry at Chester began with his arrival but it was not until 1788 that a Congregational Church, the first church in Chester, was organized with Rev. John Seccombe as pastor. It was a church in which Baptists and Presbyterians as well as Congregationalists held membership. Rev. Joseph Dimock succeeded to the pastorate in 1793, an office which he held for fifty-three years.

1776-1809 was the period of the "Great Awakening" in Nova Scotia. This movement was sparked by young Henry Alline, who moved with his family from Newport, R. I., to Nova Scotia in 1760. He swept through the provinces expounding his New Light principles. Organization followed revival and several Congregationalists, Dissenters and New Light Churches moved into the Baptist fellowship, the Chester Church was one of them.

In 1809 the Chester church was partly reorganized to bring it into closer conformity with the Baptist plan. Two years later a complete reformation was effected and the Chester Baptist Church was admitted into the fellowship of the Baptist Association.

The church figured prominently in denomination life. In 1814 the Association met in Chester, at this meeting a collection of \$34.60 was received. This was the beginning of the Canadian Baptist Foreign Mission enterprise. At the same Association and at the request of the Chester Church plans were laid for Home Mission work in Nova Scotia.

The cornerstone of the new church was laid August 24, 1913, by Rev. J. D. MacLeod and the building was completed and dedicated in 1914, the third building to house the congregation. The first church stood on what is known as Hackmatack Hill. The second building was erected in 1872 at the southeast corner of King and Union Streets.

Thirty pastors have served the church during almost two centuries. Under their leadership the Church has reached out into the neighbouring communities. The churches at New Ross, Chester Basin, and Tancook all owe their origin to the work of the Church at Chester. The church at Canaan also owes its origin to the Chester Church.

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rev. Thomas Lloyd was a missionary under the Propagation of the Gospel. In 1794 his work brought him to Chester, where on September 1st he played a part in organizing St. Stephen's Church of England. A few

months later he found it necessary to go to Windsor, some thirty-five miles distant. On a Tuesday in February 1795 he and his guide started on this trip. They had gone about nine miles on their way when they were overtaken by a violent storm. Throughout the rest of the day and night the storm raged. Early the next morning the guide returned to Chester in search of help for the missionary. It was a difficult journey in the wake of the storm and the day was almost over before the guide, almost overcome with exhaustion reached a house. Immediately a party went to Mr. Lloyd's rescue. When night came upon them they continued their search by candlelight until on Thursday morning they found the body of Mr. Lloyd who had frozen to death. The townspeople of Chester felt they had lost their guide and were discouraged about the future of the church.

But the church had been organized and no such catastrophe as this could end what had been accomplished. A church forty feet long by thirty feet wide was built in 1795. His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Lt. Gov. Sir John Wentworth and the Bishop of Nova Scotia were among those who gave gifts to help with the building of the church. A bell that had been cast in France and used in an old monastery was placed in the little church.

During the early years the church was frequently without the service of a clergyman and had to depend on the occasional visit of neighboring ministers. Rev. Richard Morey and Rev. Thomas Shreve, both from Lunenburg, came most often to assist the church at Chester. The name of Shreve has figured largely among the clergy at St. Stephen's. In addition to Rev. Thomas Shreve's visits, two rectors bore that name. Rev. James Shreve arrived in Chester in 1822 and when he moved to Dartmouth was succeeded by his brother, Rev. Charles Shreve in 1854. A wall plaque in St. Stephen's Church commemorates the work of the Shreve brothers, whose combined ministry lasted from 1822-1877.

The original building was torn down in 1840 and the cornerstone of the present building was laid on June 25 of the same year. Two days later the frame was raised and the work progressed rapidly. The building was erected at a cost of £1,100. The bell from the first church was used for a time but a larger bell being desired a new one was obtained from England in 1848.

Over the years the parish has grown to include churches at East River Point and Canaan. The latter church stands not far from the place where the first minister of St. Stephen's perished in the wintry storm.

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion church in Lunenburg was, for about a century, the only Lutheran church in Nova Scotia. Then, during the latter half of the nineteenth century, the work began to expand and new Lutheran churches were organized. The second church was organized at Bridgewater in 1854. Since then the Lutheran cause has experienced a tremendous growth.

Among the people of Chester were a few Lutherans who had come from Lunenburg. There being no Lutheran Church in Chester some of them visited with other churches, but there were a few who clung to the faith of their childhood and hoped that some day they would have a church of their own.

One day the Lutheran minister of Lunenburg, Rev. D. L. Roth, chanced to visit Chester. The tradition persists that he was on his way to the Eastern Shore of the province to visit some Icelanders who had settled there. His stop in Chester, even though it may have been incidental to the main intention of his trip, had a happy outcome. He met some of the Lutherans and when he discovered their desire to have a church he encouraged them to organize and work with Mahone Bay. So it was that some of the folks got together and organized St. Peter's Church in 1879. Their first services were held in the old Temperance Hall on Main Street. Rev. J. A. Schaffer, who ministered at Mahone Bay from 1876 to 1885, was the first minister of the Chester congregation.

As soon as they were able the Lutherans of Chester and East Chester made plans for a church. There was little money, but the people gave many hours of voluntary labour and completed their church in 1882.

The cornerstone was laid the first day of June 1882 by Rev. C. E. Cossman, the senior Lutheran minister of Nova Scotia. He had come from Germany in 1835 to be pastor of the Lunenburg congregation. He was a fine preacher, whose sermons in German were a joy to those who continued to use the old tongue in the new land. He also preached in English but the language never came naturally to him.

The bell in the tower of St. Peter's Church was placed there in 1904 by parishioner Jacob Meisner. Previously a very famous bell from Louisbourg was loaned to St. Peter's by Zion Church of Lunenburg.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Two of the oldest Roman Catholic Churches in Lunenburg County are St. Augustine's, Chester, and St. Norbert's, Lunenburg. The Lunenburg one was built four years earlier than the church at Chester. Father Doyle was the only priest in the county at that time. He travelled extensively to minister to his scattered parishioners, driving a pair of ponies.

In addition to their age the two churches share the distinction of having been built under the leadership of the same man, Rev. Edward Doyle, a native of Kilkenny, Ireland.

The first subscription towards the erection of the church in Chester was made by Wm. O'Brien Sr. in 1844. His contribution of £7,105 was followed by other liberal gifts and the work of the building was commenced. Michael Schmitz, a native of Germany and a successful merchant in Chester, gave so freely to the fund that Archbishop Walsh who had also contributed generously made the following entry in the parish register, "I was informed that Mr. Michael Schmitz contributed a very large amount toward the erection of the church. I regret that I cannot state the precise sum, as he never wished to make it known, but I deemed it an act of justice to him to record the fact here".

At first the Church was dependent upon visiting priests, but it was not long until a resident priest came to Chester. For many years, the parish priest made his home in rented premises, a condition Rev. W. P. Stone ter-

minated with the building of a rectory in 1950.

Among the noteworthy features of St. Augustine's Church is the splendid mural above the altar. It is a crucifixion scene which was painted in 1950 by Miss Marion Doucette. The artist was trained by the Sisters at the Home of the Good Shepherd in Halifax.

In 1931 a bell was added to the church. The bell was cast in France and was a gift to the church of parishioners and summer visitors. Upon the surface of the bell there appears the Apostles, a suitable inscription, a crucifix and a reproduction of Our Lady of Lourdes, and the bell has a particular beauty of tone.

The parish of which St. Augustine's is a part is an extensive one including Hubbards and New Ross. One marvels at the fortitude of men like Father Doyle who, a century ago, covered this area with a pair of small ponies.

METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Church was built in 1880 and dedicated on February 10, 1881.

The sermon was preached by Rev. Smith. The portion of scripture taken for the sermon was Psalm 46: 5 -- God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved, God shall help her, and that right early.

There were two candidates for baptism and twelve received for church membership.

The Methodist Church closed about 1918.

Compiled by Miss Una Redden.

CEMETERIES IN CHESTER

The first cemetery in Chester, now known as the Old Baptist, was originally used by people of all faiths, who at that time were under the charge of Rev. John Seccombe, a Congregationalist.

It is on land probably set aside by the Village division of 1761, situated in the southwest area of Chester, bounded by Brunswick Street, Regent Street, Union Street and the shore of the Back Harbour.

The oldest headstone there is that of Sarah Levy, wife of Nathan, who died on July 3, 1771, although the first recorded death is that of William, son of Ebenezer and Hannah Fitch, 2 years, 7 months, 1 day, who died on November 27, 1775.

This cemetery stayed under the charge of the Baptist Church as other churches were established in the Village.

In 1880 a new part was added on the north end and in 1915 Pine Hill Cemetery was opened on land along the Golf Course Road. A new section to this was opened in 1965.

The first Anglican cemetery is situated west and north of the present

church building and probably came into use when the first Anglican church was built there between 1793-1795. A new section to the north was later added to this cemetery and in 1947 a new Anglican Cemetery named Bay View was opened in the area which was set aside by an Act passed on May 7, 1874, in which the area known as the Commons was divided and lots set aside making provision for cemeteries by any church so desiring to use the land.

To date, on this land, there is the Bay View Cemetery and a section taken by the Methodist Church about 1881. This church ceased to function during World War I though the cemetery is still in use.

A cemetery was established by the Lutheran Church some distance north of the church building when this congregation first organized in 1879. Austin Graves was the first burial there, date unknown. The first recorded burial is that of Ephriam Schnare in 1898.

The cemetery of St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church on the corner of King and Regent Streets lies south and west of the church building and was probably established when this church commenced in 1844. No records are known of the early church affairs.

There is one small private cemetery in the area, situated in a wooded area of the Golf Course.

Compiled by Mrs. Ethel Ekloff.

CHESTER LIBRARY

The first effort to provide a library at Chester was made by four summer residents in 1913 who consulted Mrs. Frank Freda. She made a room available in her home and acted as librarian for nine years. Fifty books were donated. A fee was charged. In 1922 this library was moved to the home of Mrs. S. Freda. The library had increased to fifteen thousand volumes.

In 1928 Mrs. Isabel Austin of New York offered as a gift to the Municipality of Chester the house and land that had been owned by her sister and willed to her upon the death of her sister, Mrs. Zoe Valle Lightfoot. This property to be used for a public library and community centre by the citizens, in memory of Mrs. Lightfoot, with a stipulation that a fund be raised to take care of maintenance, known as the Zoe Valle Lightfoot Endowment Fund, which amount is now fourteen thousand dollars.



Mrs. Zoe Valle Lightfoot
Picture from a painting by Corbett

With the deed of gift, it was further stipulated that a committee of three be in charge. One appointed by the Municipality of Chester, one by the subscribers to the fund, and one by the Women's Institute of Chester. Mrs. James Starr, who subscribed one thousand dollars to the fund, was appointed as a member of this committee by the group of subscribers. Mr. Grover Cole was appointed by the Council. Miss Mabel Mitchell was appointed by the local branch of Women's Institute. This committee served for many years. Others acting in this capacity have been, Mr. Murray Zinck, Miss Bertha Oxner, Mrs. Daniel Blain, and Dr. Allan Gibson.

In 1931 an extension was added to provide more room for the librarian at a cost of one thousand dollars. This amount was donated by Miss Ann McCormick.

A Book Club was organized in the early days. Each member paid a fee, which was used for buying books. This proved successful and continues through the years. Lady O. Grimble is in charge at the present time.

In 1933, by a resolution of the trustees, a memorial in the form of books was established, in memory of John G. Hibben.

Upon the death of Miss Merle Stanford (one of a group of school girls known as "CHUMS"), a bookshelf was established to her memory by the remaining members of the group. This shelf is well stocked with children's books.

The custodians of the library have been Major and Mrs. Holland, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Armstrong, Mr. Guy Walker, Mr. Eugene Mader, Mrs. Rost. The present librarian is Mrs. E. Rothwell.

Information from Vi Rothwell.

CHESTER SCHOOLS

THE Chester Women's Institute would like to take you back to an earlier year. To the beginnings of our Chester area schools. From a school conducted in a private home, to the building of the first school, its loss through fire, and through the construction of three additional ones.

For our information we go to DesBrisay's History of Lunenburg County. Here we meet our first teacher, James Smith of Glasgow, Scotland, who came to Chester in 1784. His daughter, Mrs. Margaret Hawboldt, began teaching with the father at night. She then established a day school. Married men and women were amongst her scholars.

Mrs. Hawboldt, born in Chester, was the oldest living descendant of Timothy Houghton, one of the first settlers. She taught in Chester over sixty years, dying in 1886, at the age of ninety-two years and seven months.

George Turner, born in England in 1798, came to Halifax in 1817. Mr. Turner taught at Marriott's Cove. Then he attended the National School at Halifax to become better qualified. In December, 1826, he commenced a school at Chester in a private house, no public school then having been built. From the writings of Magistrate Cottnam Smith, Chester, we read that the first private school was on the property now known as the Chester Pharmacy. The first public school was on the property of George Mitchell and later owned by John and Audrey (Corkum) Newcombe.

Returning to DesBrisay's History we read that Mr. Turner went to England in 1832, returning to Chester in 1834, where he taught in the new school house at Chester.

We next meet Mr. John Thomas, who is also zealous of good works and who performed the duties of lay reader and Sunday School teacher. Mr. Thomas received the teachers bonus, one hundred acres of forest land, the provincial acknowledgment for long service in the education of the young. He had for many years, forty dollars per annum from one of the church societies for his services as lay reader and catechist. Mr. Thomas died near Chester in 1881, aged eighty-three, having taught in Chester, Blandford, Windsor Road and many other schools, a total of fifty-three years. The day before he died he walked five miles!

Caroline Wamboldt, granddaughter of Timothy Houghton, taught in the township of Chester for more than twenty years.

Rev. Robert Murray, editor of the Presbyterian Witness, was a teacher in the town of Chester in 1853.

Inspector H. H. MacIntosh, in 1894, stated that every settlement in Lunenburg County had its public school. Chester High School was staffed by Principal, Rupert F. Morton B.A., Dalhousie; Miss Mamie Butler, and Miss Jessie L. Hiltz, Normal School Diploma. Mr. Morton was the successor of Mr. Charles E. Williams, a native of Chester, who was the efficient principal for thirteen years, retiring in 1895.

Miss Hannah Church of Chester was also a teacher in the eighteen seventies with a First Class Normal School Diploma. She also taught at the Normal School in Truro for ten years.

I go now to the Intermediate School where the school Register is kept. Reading from a partial register of 1897 we see the signature of H. H. MacINTOSH who had visited the school that year.

The trustees and secretary had also visited and signed their names, John Webber, Wm. Robinson, and Hugh Stanford. Ten local visitors names were also in the register. In 1899 Austin Alvin Zinck taught forty-seven pupils.

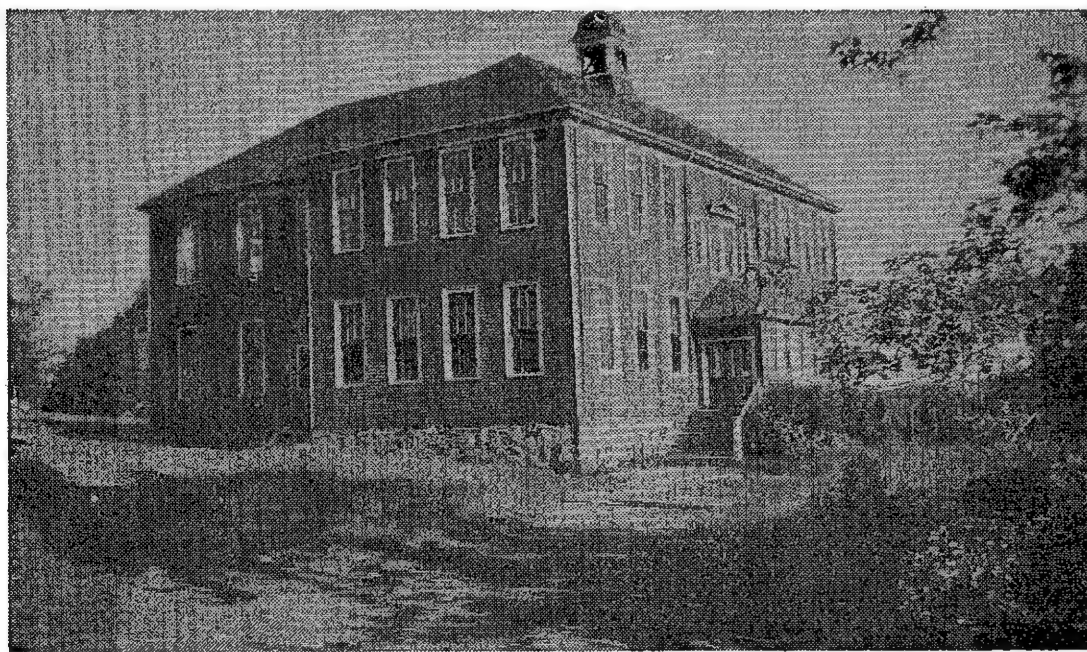
In 1901-1902, one register records forty pupils in Grade two and three and four. Quoting now from Capt. Robert Barkhouse's diary of Jan. 18, 1901, states that the school house and Dr. Kelly's barn burnt down. An older resi-

dent tells me the school was rebuilt in 1902 by Mr. Nathaniel J. Robinson. The register makes no mention of this. A 1903-1904 register tells us that Miss Evangeline Webber taught for \$140, exclusive of her grant. In that year she had eleven years of experience, seven of it spent at Chester. She had been to Normal and had a B license. Her opening and closing dates of school were Aug. 24 to June 30. The above school that burnt was on the property now occupied by Mr. Ray Armstrong's house and Mrs. Bruce Hawboldt's home.

The backs of School Registers in these early years recorded the arrival of local birds, flowers, first ploughing done and many other firsts.

For the children who walked leisurely to school this was a good way for them to become observant of nature and events taking place around them. Today they could not do this from a school bus window.

The names on the register of 1902-1903 show their kinship with the original settlers. They are Smith, Chandler, Chase, Freda, Cleveland, Walker, Bremner, Robinson, Barkhouse, Nass, Graves, Meisner, Rafuse, Hilchey, Evans, Whitford, Mills, Hennigar, Baker, Blair, Church, Redden, Hawboldt and Mitchell.



The school built in 1902, now called the Chester Elementary School, had the High School Grades of Nine to Eleven taught in it until the year 1962.

In January of 1967 I called Mrs. Wilma Caldwell, secretary for these two schools for twelve years. The two schools, the one built in 1902 with six rooms, the one built in 1956 with four rooms, which house Primary to Grade Two inclusive. This school of six rooms had Domestic Science taught in it, A First in Chester. The women of Chester banded together, raised the money and equipped the room in this school for the teaching of Domestic Science.

In 1965 these two schools, housing beginners to the end of Grade six, had two hundred and seventy-seven pupils. All rooms in these schools are filled with pupils and a complete staff as follows for the year 1966-1967.

Mr. Elmer Brownell
 Mrs. George Jollimore (Part Time)
 Miss Violet Mosher (Taught for ten years)
 Mrs. Clifford Hume (Taught ten years in Chester)
 Miss Ella Rost (Over ten years teaching in Chester)
 Mrs. L. Mirt Marshall
 Mrs. Donald Nauss
 Mrs. Sandra Schnare
 Miss Sharon Houghton
 Mrs. Murray Baker (Substitute)
 Miss Mary Baker

The Principals of the school from 1902 to 1962 are as follows:

Mr. Charles Williams	Miss E. Webber
Mr. R. P. Morton	Mr. Wm. Hilchey
Mr. Sidney Zinck	Mr. Donald Hebb (Later Dr. Hebb)
Mr. Avery Hawboldt	Mr. D. MacPherson
Miss Frail	Mr. H. V. Longly
Mr. Clyde Fletcher	
Mr. Spencer	
Mr. A. H. Marshall (From 1943 to 1951)	
Mr. J. L. Baben	
Mr. Robert Zinck	
Mr. L. B. Holder	
Mr. Herman Levy	
<u>Mr. A. H. Marshall</u> (From 1956 to 1962)	

Mr. William Young (Principal of the first six Grades from 1962 to 1966)
 Our present W. I. Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. M. L. Zinck taught here as Vice Principal for several years.

The Chester Municipal High School opened in 1962, two weeks after the regular date for the term opening. The official Opening took place on Jan. 25, 1963, at 7:30 p.m. The platform guests at that occasion were, Hon. Robert Stanfield, Premier of Nova Scotia, who gave the address and formally opened the school, Judge Clifford Levy (Who introduced Premier Stanfield), Mr. Lloyd Crouse, M.P. for Lunenburg and Queens County, Warden M. L. Zinck, M.L.A. (Who gave the vote of thanks to the Premier), Hon. Stephen Pyke, Mr. Keith Graham (Architect), Mr. Lyle Hopkins (Contractor), Mr. Boyd B. Barteaux (Inspector of Schools). Our Chester Clergy, Rev. Gerald Bates, Rev. M. Allen Gibson D.D., and Rev. G. R. F. Ebsary, gave the Invocation, Scripture Reading and Benediction.

The new building was filled with the Staff, Pupils, Parents, Friends, and Institute Members. One of their goals for which they had worked for so long had now been reached.

Chester Municipal High School is a twenty classroom structure, completely equipped with facilities for a complete and up to date teaching program. Designed by the Halifax Architectural firm of Keith Graham Associates, the building was constructed by the Acadia Construction Co., of Bridgewater.

In addition to teaching classrooms there is a fully furnished laboratory, a library, music room, gymnasium, manual training, and home economics departments and offices for school and Public Health Officials. Contemporary styling prevails, with brick and steel being employed in construction.

Grade Seven to Grade Twelve are offered to students from throughout the entire Municipality, with the exception only of those residing in the area served by the New Ross School. In sixty-six, sixty-seven Tancook Island pupils are ferried to Chester each day to attend this school. Thirty-five pupils, Grade Seven to Grade Twelve.

The school occupies a twelve acre site, bought from Mr. Edgar Whitford, commanding a pleasing view of the community, the Front Harbour and the island-studded bay, the original landing spot of our settlers. A fleet of six buses is used to provide a safe transportation of pupils to and from all three schools.

The staff at the opening of Chester Municipal High School in 1963 was,

Principal Mr. Nelson Amiro B.A.

Vice Principal Mr. Lloyd Coffin

Faculty

Miss Marjorie Remby B.A.

Mr. A. H. Marshall B.A., Paed. (Taught over ten years in Chester)

Miss Mable Whitford (Taught over ten years in Chester)

Miss Hazel Best B.A. (Taught over ten years in Chester)

Mr. M. N. Zinck B.A., B.Com., B.Sc.

(Taught over ten years in Chester)

Mr. Lamont Larkin B.Sc., B.Ed.

Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Wallace

Mr. John Wright B.A., B.Ed.

Mr. J. M. Wilkinson B.A., B.Paed.

Mr. Roland Feltmate

Mrs. Gertrude Joudrey

Mr. Glen Lacey

Mr. Jerold Blumenthal

Miss Gail Hume

Mr. Andrew Stevens

Mrs. Helen Kaiser

A call to the office of Principal Mr. Amiro B.A., brings us up to date on the improvements in Chester Municipal High School since its opening in 1963.

A Home Economics class was added, complete Cafeteria service (A plastic bucket of sauerkraut was brought to the school for lunch while I was there. This area noted for the making of sauerkraut) and then the Industrial Arts class was opened. Mr. Selig the teacher here. A general course for Grade Ten was started in September 1966. In Jan. 1967 the first Adult

Courses at night in sewing and Physical Fitness were undertaken.

We pause now to pay tribute to Miss Mable Hawboldt, beloved primary teacher in Chester for fifteen years, who died in 1942. A Chester native and a descendant of our early settlers.

To Dr. R. E. Hennigar, Warden of the Council and chairman of the School Board for a number of years. Passed away in 1965.

To Mr. William Young, Principal of the first six School Grades, died after a long illness on Jan. 19, 1966. He had taught in Chester ten years and was taken to his home on Tancook Island for burial.

To Mr. A. H. Marshall B.A., B.Paed., senior teacher at the Chester Municipal High School, died after a long illness on May 24, 1966. He had marked provincial examination papers at Windsor and Wolfville for over twenty years and the supplementary examinations at Halifax for the past five years. He had taught in Chester a total of eighteen years and five months.

In 1965 Miss Margaret K. Meissner, Chester teacher, retired from a Dartmouth School. Miss Meissner served in the R.C.A.F. in the Medical Corp from 1942 till 1945. She returned to teaching in Chester for twelve rewarding years.

These teachers were truly dedicated to their work of teaching. Evidence of their regard was shown by the Chester people in their memorial tree planting, awards, scholarships, plaques and other pictures placed in their schools. Their loss was keenly felt by the school unit and the people of Chester.

Miss Cassie Faulkner B.A. retired in 1966 from Chester, after teaching over ten years in the Primary Grades. She and her mother returned to their home in Port Williams, Kings Co.

I conclude my story with my call for information at the Municipal Office. I talk with Mr. Ian Mitchell who has been Municipal Clerk for twenty-four years. He went to his files for the year 1946. In that year all schools in the Chester Municipality were placed under the Municipal Office at Chester. Number of teachers in 1946 were forty-eight and in this year of 1967 there are eighty-six. Costs in 1946 for the schools were \$23,147.65 and in 1964-1965 it had amounted to \$195,405.47. School population for the year of 1966-1967 amounted to six hundred pupils at the Chester Municipal High School.

Written by Margaret I. Marshall.

WINNERS OF THE CHESTER W. I. SCHOLARSHIP

DAVID MITCHELL
IVAN C. SMITH
IRIS CLEVELAND
RALPH HENNIGAR
MAX BEYRIS
FRED BUTLER JR.
VERNA ROTHWELL
BETTY SKUFFHAM

LESTER BAKER
WARD ISNOR
SANDRA EVANS
VERTA WEBBER
DONALD NAUSS
GAIL HUME
JOYCE MACDONALD
SANDRA MUNRO

GRANT MORASH
EDWARD RUTHERFORD
SALLY BARKHOUSE

DAVID CLEVELAND
LINDA LANTZ
LINDA MUNRO
JOHN KEHOE

PROF. BERTHA OXNER

Well-known Educationalist, Bertha Georgina Oxner, was born at Chester Basin. She was the daughter of the late Captain Kenneth Oxner and Georgina (Morgan) Oxner. She received her early education at Chester, Truro Academy and the Provincial Normal College. She taught school at Riverport, Brookfield, Col. Co., and at Kentville.

In 1912 she moved to Saskatchewan and taught school at Saltcoats, Brock and Saskatoon. She studied household science at Guelph, Ont., and later graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with her B.A. degree. A few years later she graduated from the University of Chicago with her M.A. She did post-graduate work at Columbia University.

In 1923 she returned to Nova Scotia and was Dean of Women at Acadia University, but two years later accepted the position of assistant professor of household science at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1930, she became director of Women's Extension Work at the university.

In 1935 she went to England, where she visited various institutions, doing adult education work and attended lectures at the London School of Economics.

During the war years, World War II, she was a member of the Advisory Council of the Department of Veterans Affairs. She was also a member of "The National War Finance Committee".

When Lord and Lady Tweedsmuir, the then Governor-General of Canada, toured Saskatchewan, Professor Oxner was a member of the official party. Throughout her career Miss Oxner worked for social and educational improvements. She prepared many briefs for presentation to government commissions on education, health and social services. She attended numerous women's conventions across Canada.

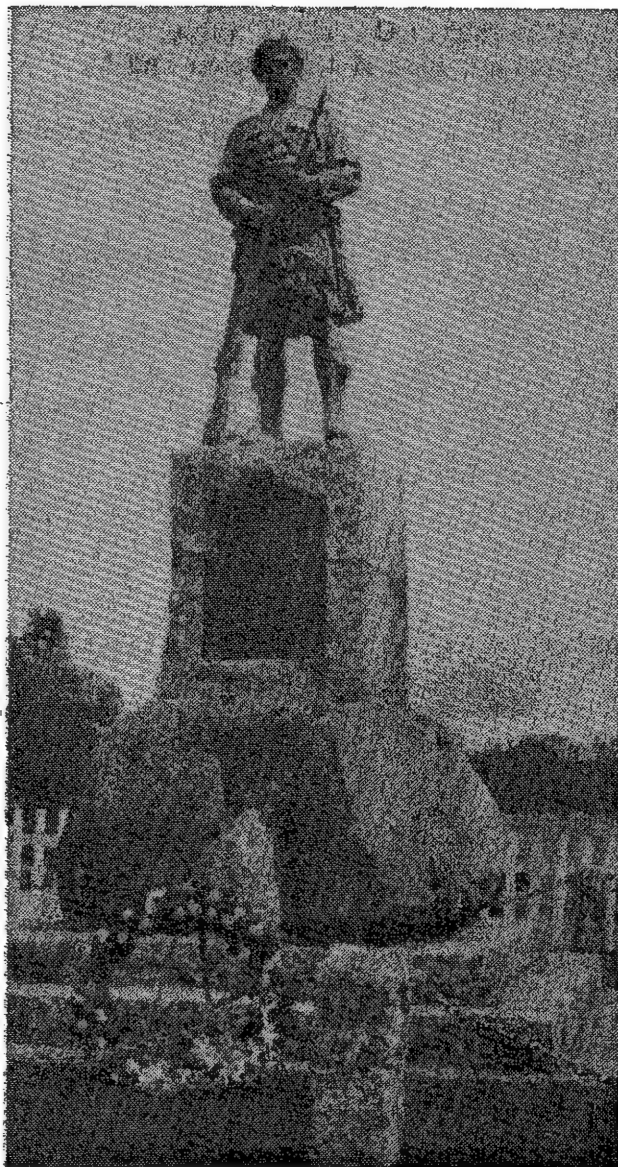


Miss Oxner retired in 1949 and returned to Chester. In 1950 the women of Saskatchewan, in recognition of her services, subscribed to send her to the International Conference of Associated Countrywomen of the World, at Copenhagen, Denmark.

In addition to above mentioned she was active in church and community affairs, she was a member of the Chester Branch, Women's Institute for eleven years.

Professor Bertha Oxner died at her home, Chester, Dec. 8, 1960, age 75 years. Interment was in the Baptist cemetery, Chester Basin, N.S.

THE CHESTER WAR MEMORIAL



This magnificent statue of a Nova Scotia Highland soldier was unveiled on August 4th, 1922. The design and cast were the gift of the famous Scottish sculpture J. Massey Rhind, who had spent many pleasant summers in Chester.

The Plaque and Bronze Figure, costing \$2050. were cast in New York. The total cost of the monument was \$400. to which must be added Mr. Rhind's work, which he told the Committee, if he were charging for it, would be about \$6000.

The base and steps of the Monument were cut from one stone boulder (Granite), the work having been by the late Wakefield Zinck.

The names of the Memorial Committee who were instrumental in securing this superb tribute to the memory of our fallen heroes are: Cottnam Smith, Chairman; Mrs. Franklyn Freda, Secretary; J. H. Strong, Treasurer; Rev. N. C. McCarthy; Dr. Clara Olding Hebb; Dr. A. M. Hebb; Grover Cole; Owen Evans; J. Roy Hennigar; Carroll Manning; Orvil Redden; Mrs. Douglas Mills; Mrs. Frank Mitchell; Miss Hattie Brown and Miss Emma Mason.

THE NAMES ENGRAVED ON THE TABLETS

THE HONORED DEAD

WORLD WAR I 1914-1918

CHESTER

NEW ROSS

George Bardwell
Neil Brown
Maurice Chase
Frank Cleveland
Percy Roy Cleveland
James Dauphinee
Charles Graves
Creighton Hatt
Frank Hilchey
Rodney Lantz
Philip Manning
Harris Meisner
Timothy Murphy
Clyde Nauss
William Pulsifer
Edward Rafuse
Malcolm Smith
Robert Smith
Zenus Weagle
William Whitford
Arden Morash

Capt. Vincent P. Murphy
Lieut. Orrin Lantz
Harlan Brown
Peter DeAdder
William Harris
Frank Hiltz
R. A. Hiltz
Reginald H. Hutchison
O. Keddy
Frank Keddy
Allen Levy
David McDow
Harold McGarry
Delbert Meister
Otis Meister
William Reece
Elder T. Reece
William Skerry
Herbert Veinot
Dean White

CHESTER BASIN

BLANDFORD

Franklyn Cleveland
Gordon Cleveland
Granville Cleveland
George Murphy
Adolphus Zinck

Lieut. Geo. MacGregor
Lawrence Corbin

GOLD RIVER

Frederick Hatt
Theophilus Sawler

MILL COVE

Edgar Coolen
Reuben Coolen
Foster Jollymore

THE HONORED DEAD

WORLD WAR II

1939-1945

CHESTER

Howard Armstrong
Fenwick Gates
Winton Cook
Ernest Nauss
Richard Mills
Everett James
Purdy Houghton
Carlton Graves

MILL COVE

George Shatford
Harold Langille
Carl Coolen
Sinclair Shatford

WESTERN SHORE

Willoughby Zwicker
Marshall Sawler
Francis Hirtle
Frederick Barkhouse
Maxwell Mosher

NEW ROSS

Ronald Russell
Arthur Baker
Raymond Emeno
Herbert Veinot

BLANDFORD

CHESTER BASIN

Everett Borgald

Source: Plaques on the Memorial

Mr. Cottnam Smith's Historical Events.

Booklet Printed for the Unveiling Ceremonies.

Compiled by Annie E. Zinck

WORLD WAR I

These went for Empire and for Right,
To brave the battle and to face the fight,
And keep the Flag triumphant.

CHESTER

Officers:

Col. J. L. Miller
Major A. A. Miller
Capt. Wm. Chandler
Capt. R. M. Millett
Capt. E. S. Millett
Capt. W. L. Whitford
Lieut. Maurice F. Fredea
Lieut. Rex MacMinn
Lieut. J. Stanley Millett
Lieut. Brenton Millett
Lieut. Sidney M. Taylor

Aubrey Fleet
Harold Graves
Eldon Graves
Martin Hatt
Ralph Hennigar
Wm. Hiltz
Clyde Hiltz
Thos. Hodges
Reginald Houghton
Clifford Houghton
Reginald Hyson
Marshall Melvin
Claude Mills
Carl Mills

Nursing Sisters:

Edwina R. Lordly
Viola G. Nauss
Olive C. Redden
Lillian Zinck

Laurie Mitchell
Paul Mitchell
Allen Morash
Perley Nauss
Howard Pulsifer
Linford Pulsifer

N. C. O.'s and Men

Howard Bond
Frederic Butler
Ben Blair
Harry Chase
Selvyn Cook
Willis Corkum
Charles Corkum
Robert Corkum
Roy Corkum
Murray Counteway
John Daley
William Dauphinee
George Eisnor
Stanley Eisnor
Watson Eisnor
Austin Evans
Clayton Evans
Arthur Fredea
Edward Fredea

Burton Rafuse
Douglas Rafuse
Ruggles Rafuse
Roy Rafuse
Henry Rafuse
Thos. Robinson
Roy Robinson
Dewey Robinson
Warren Smith
Stillman Smith
William Schnare
Ernest Schnare
Harry Schnare
Walter Stevens
Percy Williams
Russell Zinck
Gordon Zinck
William Zinck
Joseph Zinck
John Zinck
Frank Zinck

The Badge of Distinction

Among the lads who won special notice were Capt. R. M. Millett, M. C., Lieut. Brenton Millett, M. C., Capt. V. P. Murphy, M. C., Lieut. Orrin Lantz, M. C., Croix de Guerre, Murray Meister, M. S. M.; Herbert Veinot, M. M., and bar; Fred Dauphinee, M. M. and two bars; W. Zinck, M. M.

Chester boys who wore the Mons ribbon, were Frank Hilchey, Howard Bond, Carl Mills, Laurie Mitchell, Harry Chase and Maurice Fredea. Four Chester boys won commissions on the field, Lieut. Sidney Taylor, Lieut. J. Stanley Millett, Lieut. Brenton Millett and Lieut. Maurice Fredea. The latter was also mentioned in despatches by Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig "for gallant and distinguished services on the field". These were a few of our boys whose services received special recognition, but in our hearts every man who saw active service wears the decoration awarded to deeds of highest courage.

CHESTER BASIN

J. B. Anderson	A. E. Webber
D. A. Corbin	M. C. Webber
M. D. Corbin	N. D. Webber
C. H. Clinton	A. Shatford
C. W. Clinton	H. Backman
C. Croft	H. A. Borgald
F. E. Dauphinee	G. A. Corkum
G. L. Croft	P. Croft
B. S. Corkum	R. E. Bezanson
B. S. Corkum (brothers)	M. I. Oxner
D. DeMille	W. Millett
R. Hatt	L. Backman
T. G. Hatt	N. V. Rafuse
D. C. Hatt	

NEW ROSS

Officers:

Capt. Arthur L. L. Skerry
Lieut. John W. G. Larder

Nursing Sisters:

Genevieve B. Lantz
Olive M. Meister

N. C. O.'s and Men

Arnold A. Adams
George G. Brown
Walter S. Barkhouse
D. Mark Boylan
George Ross Elliott

Horace C. Keddy
Ivan John Lantz
Elmer Otis Lantz
Jas. Allen Levy
Edward H. Leopold
Herbert B. Leopold
Owen B. Leopold
L. P. Leopold
Chas. M. Meister
Claude E. Meister
Murray L. Meister
G. E. Meister
Orrin J. Meister
Terence A. Meister
David O. Metlow
George A. Naugler
Wm. A. Naugler

Ira S. Gates
 S. James Gates
 Henry LeRoy Hiltz
 Pearl Hiltz
 Ira Cecil Hyson
 Jos. L. Jollymore
 Chas. Edgar Keddy
 Roy M. Keddy
 Howard F. Keddy

Owen V. Naugler
 Edward H. Ross
 Elmore Reece
 Chas. S. Redden
 Ira George Rafuse
 David A. Turner
 Leslie H. Veinotte
 Lawrence D. Whitman

GOLD RIVER

N. C. O.'s and Men

Ozem Barkhouse
 Freeman Conrad
 Manuel Daurey
 St. Clair DeMont
 Eaton Hamm
 Ervin Hatt
 Reginald Hatt
 Clayton Hirtle
 Chas. Hiltz
 Bedford Hiltz
 Edward Hiltz
 Robie Joudrey
 Willis Joudrey
 Thos. Myra
 Wm. Myra

Arch H. Myra
 Obie Rafuse
 Albert Rafuse
 Herbert Rafuse
 Clifford Sawler
 Austin Sawler
 William Sawler
 Harding Sawler
 Thos. Schupe
 Robie Smith
 Peter Swinimer
 Owen Swinimer
 John R. Swinimer
 Wallace Swinimer
 Roderick Young
 Clarence Zwicker

BLANDFORD

George Awalt
 Frank Boutilier
 Cyril Boutilier
 Lovett Backman
 Colin Cleveland
 Stanley Cleveland
 Ward Cleveland
 Everett Cleveland

Ellis Gates
 Roy Gates
 Clyde Gates
 Orville Murphy
 Osborne Murphy
 Lindsay Publicover
 Wesley Zinck
 Winton Zinck

MILL COVE

Miles Coolen
 Lawson Dorey
 Rex Dorey

Clinton Fiske
 Byron Verge

It is a matter of great regret that the lists of overseas men in Blandford and Mill Cove, and possibly in other districts, may be incomplete.

THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE SERVICE WORLD WAR II

CHESTER

Lawrence H. Armstrong
 Charles I. Armstrong
 Douglas R. Armstrong
 William M. Baker
 Murray Barkhouse
 Walter Barkhouse
 James Bond
 Lionel Bond
 Harry Bond Jr.
 Eric Bond
 Basil Bond
 Howard Bond
 Roy Bond
 Earley R. Bond
 C. Arthur Bond
 Clayton Bond
 Barrett Bonnezen
 Edward Boutilier
 John Bradbury
 Fred Bremner
 Edwin Butler
 William Chase
 Lovett H. Chandler
 William R. Chandler
 Byron Chandler
 Lawrence Chandler
 Roy W. Chandler
 Arthur Cleveland
 Herbert Cleveland
 Ross Cleveland
 John Cole
 Dr. Philip Cole
 Alfred W. Corkum
 Earle Cornelius
 Dr. Perry Croft
 Harold Dauphinee
 Clayton Evans
 Frederick Evans
 Lawrence Feader
 Richard Frail
 Fenwick Gates
 Laurence Gates
 Raymond Gorman
 Carleton Graves
 Orville Graves
 William E. Hawboldt
 Frank Hilchey
 George Hilchey

Theodore Hilchey
 Frank Hiltz
 Horace Hiltz
 Russell C. Hiltz
 Harry Hutt
 Charles R. Hume
 Clifford Hume
 Capt. Kingsley Hume
 Frances Hume
 D. A. Keddy
 J. Henry LaFrance
 Peter R. LaFrance
 Evelyn Langille
 Donald Langille
 Albert Langille
 Benjamin Levy
 Percy Levy
 Edward MacNeil
 Eugene Mader
 Virgil Mader
 Earl Mader
 Arlie Mader
 Orville Mader
 Elizabeth Manning
 A. S. Matheson
 Margaret Meisner
 Lindsay Mills
 Richard Mills
 Clara Webber Mills
 Robert Mills
 Frank Mills
 David Moland
 Kenneth Moland
 Stanley Moland
 Cecil Moland
 Leaman O. Morash
 Guy Morash
 James Morash
 Austin Morash
 Douglas Morash
 Eugene Morash
 Clyde Mosher
 Harold Mosher
 Earle Myra
 Ernest Myra
 Harry Myra
 Austin Myra
 Ruby Myra
 Winston Myra

Robbie Myra
 Arnold Myra
 Carmon Myra
 Noble Myra
 Clyde Murphy
 Guy Nauss
 Robert Nauss
 Malcolm Nauss
 Arthur Nauss
 Russell Nauss
 Lois Nauss
 Dorothy Nauss
 Roy L. Nauss
 Lewis M. Nauss
 Chester B. Nauss
 William M. Nauss
 Thomas C. Nauss
 Lewis P. Nauss
 Earle Nauss
 Harold Nauss
 Laurence E. Oikle
 Herman W. Payne
 Robert Perry
 Joseph Payne
 Dennis Perry
 Kenneth Perry
 Paul M. Publicover
 Obed Rafuse
 Charles S. Rafuse
 Laurence W. Rafuse
 William Rafuse
 Moyle Rafuse
 Eric D. Redden
 J. F. Robinson
 Laurence Rudolph
 George Rudolph
 Clyde L. Sawlor
 A. Douglas Schnare
 Ivan Schnare
 Percy Schnare
 Harvey Schnare
 H. Blaine Shatford
 Glenn A. Shatford
 Percy H. Shatford
 George A. Shatford
 St. Clair Shatford
 Clarke Shatford
 Borden Shatford
 Stuart Smith
 Joseph Stanford
 Perlis Stevens
 Walter Stevens
 Boyd Swinimar

Grant Swinimar
 George Tobacco
 Walter Webber
 Orvin Webber
 Donald Webber
 Angus Webber
 Edward Wheeler
 Irving W. Whynot
 Adolphus Whynacht
 Josiah Zinck
 Josiah Zinck
 Lt. Maurice Zinck
 Walter Zinck
 Clyde Zinck
 Mae D. Zwicker
 Earle H. Zwicker
 Douglas Zwicker

CHESTER MUNICIPALITY

Harry Adams
 Lester G. Andrews
 Florence T. Andrews
 Percy Awalt
 William Brewer
 John A. Baker
 Arthur Baker
 Robie Barkhouse
 Frank Barkhouse
 Ross Barkhouse
 Clarence W. Bezanson
 Russell Cleveland
 Granville Cleveland
 Lincoln F. Cleveland
 Ross A. Cleveland
 Clarence Cleveland
 Pearle (Langille) Conlon
 Moyle Coolen
 Harvey E. Cook
 Winton B. Cook
 Alfred W. Corkum
 Holley R. Cross
 S. E. Dauphinee
 Ira B. DeMont
 M. K. Eisner
 Ronald Eldridge
 Wilfred Fralic
 James E. Hamm
 Herbert Hirtle
 Gordon Hirtle
 Elroy Hutt
 Floyd Hiltz
 G. H. Jodrey
 Obed Rafuse

These names were procured through the co-operation of the Supervisor, C.M.H.S., N. Amiro, and his pupils. Regrettably there may be omissions. We found it impossible to get an exact list.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

**Units served in by men from
Chester.
(As far as Legion records go).**

Royal Air Force
Essex Scottish Battalion
36th. Armoured Infantry Regiment
U.S.A.

Royal Canadian Air Force
Royal Canadian Navy
Royal Canadian Engineers
Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer
Reserve
Royal Canadian Artillery
Royal Canadian Ordinance Corp
Royal Canadian Army Service Corp
North Nova Scotia Highlanders
West Nova Scotia Regiment
Halifax Rifles
Princess Louise Fusiliers
Seaforth Highlanders
Princess Patricia Canadian Light
Infantry
Composite Battalion
Nova Scotia Forestry Battalion
First Depot Battalion
75th. Battalion
112th. Battalion
260th. Battalion
25th. Battalion
14th. Battalion
40th. Battalion
163rd. Battalion
Canadian Dental Corp
Merchant Navy
2nd. Division Ammunition Park
No. 1 Field Ambulance
28th. Battery C.F.A.
5th. Canadian Siege Battery
6th. Canadian Siege Battery
Royal Flying Corp
86th. Heavy Battery

It is impossible to state the number of men from Chester Village.

Approximately 350 Veterans of World Wars I and II have been members of Branch 44. Present strength is 180.

LEGION NOTES

Received Charter Jan, 1932. First meetings held in Forester's Hall. Moved to rooms in Lovett House, sample room late in 1932. Moved in 1938 to rooms later occupied by the English Sport Shop. In 1940 Branch purchased a small building near the rink. In 1945 moved to building on Hilchie property formerly used by N.S. Liquor Commission. This was purchased during the war and leased to Dept. of National Defence. Sold this hall and bought the Lovett House in 1957. Built new Hall and occupied it in 1964.

Membership 180. Ladies Auxiliary 44. Auxiliary sponsors the Brownies. Branch sponsors the Band and houses the Girl Guides. Hall is free to local projects as Garden Club, Red Cross, Etc.

CHESTER WAR HERO

Warrant Officer Edward M. Boutilier of Chester received the Distinguished Flying Cross while serving in the R.C.A.F. One night in October 1943, W. O. Boutilier was pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Hanover. Whilst over the target area the bomber was hit by machine gun fire from a fighter. Two engines were set on fire, the trimming controls of the elevator were shot away and the fuselage was extensively damaged. The rear gunner was killed and two other comrades were wounded. In spite of this, W. O. Boutilier remained master of the situation. He feathered one of the engines and by violently diving extinguished the fire in the other engine. On return flight the bomber was difficult to control, but displaying superb airmanship this determined pilot succeeded in reaching base. He displayed skill, courage and resolution of a high order.

From a newspaper clipping — Ottawa, November 19, 1943.

A WAR HERO

The desire to live in Chester had been an ambition of Charles Harris from the time he was at Dalhousie University in 1928. He had many friends here and always hoped that some day he would be able to retire here. His mother moved here 25 years ago and that ensured his retirement plans. Charles Harris was born in Antigonish and moved with his family, Mr. and Mrs. F. St. Clair Harris, to the West Coast and back to the Maritimes twice and lived in various Nova Scotia communities. In 1936, after obtaining a commercial pilot's licence, he left for England to join the RAF. He was 25 years of age and held the rank of an Acting Pilot Officer. His years with the RAF before the war broke out in 1939 are recalled with pleasure and memories of wonderful travelling throughout Europe and the Middle East. By 1942, he had attained the rank of Wing Commander and took over 88 Squadron as CO. He had been, and remained a Bomber Pilot and was on daylight raids through three operational tours. He was shot down twice, once in England and once over the Channel. In one case he lost his entire crew but due to the fact that he had neglected to fasten his seat belt he was thrown clear of his burning aircraft. In 1943 he formed and became CO of the "Bluenose Squadron" named for his native Maritimes. He transferred to the RCAF permanently in 1944. When he returned to Canada he had a variety of postings at Eastern Air Command, Gander, Torbay, Goose Bay, Churchill, headed Search and Rescue on the staging route at Edmonton, headed Search and Rescue at Seal Island Airport, Vancouver, commanding officer Ground Observer Corps in North Bay, then held the same position for all of Canada before his retirement in 1957 when he realized his ambition to bring his wife and son to Chester to live.

HISTORY OF THE AJAX CLUB — CHESTER BRANCH

by Mrs. Ralph Hennigar, Sr.

In September, 1942, Mrs. C. Stuart McEuen, Chairman of Ajax Hospitality Headquarters at Halifax, was approached by a Royal Naval Command-

er to find accommodations for ratings when a rest was thought necessary for them by their medical officers. She came to Chester and formed a Branch of the Ajax Club, the Officers of which were Mrs. Ralph Hennigar, Sr., Chairman; Mrs. C. L. Manning, Secretary; and Mrs. Marjorie Hewitt, Treasurer. After the first year Mrs. Brenton Millett filled the office of Treasurer. Mrs. Hennigar, Mrs. Manning and Mrs. Millett held these offices for the duration of the Club.

During the years the Club was in operation over Two Thousand boys were entertained. They came from England, Scotland, Wales, Holland, Java, Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania.

Many parties were arranged for the boys and in the summer sing-songs at the Chester Yacht Club were held under the auspices of Ajax Hospitality, assisted by many Chester visitors. These gatherings were open to all Allied Service Personnel, and were much enjoyed, especially by "Our Boys".

Through the generosity of Mr. Hugh Bell, Ajax Hospitality Cottage was opened in June, 1943, with Mr. Bell, Mrs. McEuen, Captain Downs, C.V.O., D.S.O., R.N., Members of the Royal Navy, representatives of the Ajax Committee, Hostesses and many summer residents present. At this Cottage tea was served daily, and the boys enjoyed the afternoons in conversation, playing cards, darts, chinese checkers, etc.

Forty-four homes in the area of Chester and Marriott's Cove were made available to these boys, and when they arrived at the station the boys were met and welcomed by one or more members of the committee and taken by kind volunteers to their "home away from home". These were the days of rationing, so each man brought his ration card for his hostess.

The hostesses were:

Mrs. James Adams	Mrs. Clifford Levy
Mrs. Harry Baker	Mrs. A. H. Marshall
Mrs. Murray Baker	Mrs. Gordon Mills
Mrs. Milford Bond	Mrs. Claude Mills
Miss Bengston	Mrs. Laurie Mills
Mrs. Fred Butler, Sr.	Mrs. Brenton Millett
Mrs. Renfrew Butler	Mrs. William Mills
Mrs. Cecil Chandler	Miss Mable Mitchell
Miss Inez Corkum	Mrs. Edgar Meisner
Mrs. Murray Corkum	Mrs. Douglas Morash
Mrs. Lloyd Croft	Mrs. Alan Morash
Mrs. William Elliott	Mrs. C. L. Manning
Mrs. Aubrey Evans	Mrs. Ione MacDonald
Mrs. Fred Evans	Mrs. Robert MacBride
Mrs. Art Fader	Mrs. Cottnam Smith
Mrs. Wilfred Hennigar	Mrs. Chipman Smith
Mrs. Ralph Hennigar	Miss Jennie Stanford
Mrs. Charles Hiltz	Mrs. Bernice Stevens
Mrs. Irving Heffler	Mrs. Thomas Whitford
Mrs. Clifford Hiltz	Mrs. D. W. N. Zwicker
Mrs. Frank Hiltz	Mrs. Ira Zwicker
Mrs. Gordon Hiltz	Mrs. James Nauss
Mrs. Stanley Hiltz	

The expenses for these men were paid for by the Ajax Club in Halifax. Mrs. C. Stuart McEuen and her committee raised the money by popular subscription all across Canada.

The hostesses and committee received many letters, each expressing deep appreciation and thanks for entertaining the boys at picnics, sing-songs, swimming, skating, skiing, and tobogganing parties.

The Chester committee was very much impressed by the fine men who visited the Club. The behavior of the boys was exemplary at all times and they were excellent ambassadors of their native lands. The members of the Chester Branch of the Ajax Club were happy to open their homes to these boys during part of their stay in Canada.

The Ajax Club was closed in the summer of 1945 and at that time a tea was held at the Yacht Club. Mrs. McEuen was presented with a small gift and Miss Fenton, who was actively associated with the Club in Halifax, was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

THE CHURCH MEMORIAL PARK

By the Will of the late Senator Charles E. Church, who died January 3rd., 1906, T. A. Wilson, Mayor of Bridgewater, and Ernest P. Webber of Halifax, formerly of Chester, were appointed executors and trustees of his estate. Mr. Wilson died the following year and Mr. Webber was left the sole trustee. Under the terms of the Will, the Senator's widow received the personal estate and had charge of the Real Estate during her life time. Mrs. Church died on May 15th, 1925.

Mr. Webber then proceeded to carry out the instructions regarding the Real Estate which was land situated on the east side of the Front Harbour. This land was sold and after paying the legacies, erecting monuments, etc., the residue was left for the purchase and creation of a park for the Town of Chester, such park, if possible, to be situated on the western side of Stanford's Lake and to contain not less than fifteen acres.

At the time of the Senator's death (1906) this land was thickly studded with wood to the water's edge. He doubtless had in mind a natural park, which in that day, played a very important part in the way of recreation. In the intervening years, this land became entirely unsuitable for Park purposes and the Park engineer, H. B. Pickings Esq., in keeping with modern events, recommended that the idea be changed to a recreational park. The engineer's recommendation was concurred in by the Attorney General and received the consent of all interested parties.

The Park property was purchased from Mr. W. Meade Evans and the deed turned over to the Town of Chester on August 29th., 1928. It was the duty of the Municipality of Chester to have this deed recorded. This information is in a letter from Mr. E. P. Webber to Mr. Cottnam Smith, Municipal Clerk in 1928.

The construction of the Church Memorial Park was completed in the Fall of 1932.

The Total cost of the Park was as follows:

Land	\$ 2,500.00	
Grading	2,500.00	
Club House	485.00	
Tennis Courts	1,075.00	
Entrance Pillars	165.00	
Fencing	600.00	
Equipment & Improvements	475.00	\$ 7,800.00

The formal opening of the Park was held on June 3rd., 1933. The address was delivered by Mr. Ernest P. Webber, Trustee and nephew of the late Senator Church.

The Citizens Park Committee was given the direct management of the park and was to be responsible for the future upkeep of it.

Their first report was presented to the Warden and Councillors of the Municipality of Chester on May 8th., 1933.

The Members of the Citizens Park Committee for the year 1932 were:

Dr. R. E. Hennigar (Chairman)
 Mrs. C. I. Hiltz (Secretary-Treasurer)
 Mrs. D. W. N. Zwicker
 Mrs. Perry Corkum
 Mrs. Claude Mills
 Mr. S. G. Mader
 Mr. Wm. Mitchell

It is interesting to note their activities for the year 1932:

Tennis:

"The Park Committee organized a Tennis Club under a capable committee consisting of Dr. L. H. Croft, President; Mrs. Owen Evans, Vice President; and Murray Zinck, Secretary-Treasurer. The Club is financially self-supporting, having purchased nets and equipment, Roller etc., at an expenditure of \$88.00 with a balance on hand of \$4.39, being funds derived from club fees."

Softball: Summer of 1932.

"Eight softball teams enjoyed the Ball Field while in this season, there are ten teams playing. The Committee have arranged their hours for play and practise satisfactorily to all teams."

The Children's Playground has been greatly improved. There are swings, tilts, sand pits and slides, all very much enjoyed.

The Roadway has been widened to permit cars to park and still leave room to enter and leave the Park without running over the grounds.

The Financial Report showed the total expenditure by the Park Committee for 1932 to be \$458.11.

(For the above, see Annual Report dated May 8th., 1933.)

In 1946 the Committee was as follows:

Dr. R. E. Hennigar (Chairman)
 Mr. C. I. Hiltz (Secretary-Treasurer)
 Edmund Feader
 Mr. H. S. Zinck
 Mrs. J. Roy Hennigar
 Mrs. L. H. Croft
 Mr. R. C. Levy, Municipal Clerk

Other Committee Members have been Miss Jean Hennigar, Mrs. Wm. Hawboldt and Mrs. Wilfred Hennigar.

At the 1956 Annual Meeting, Mr. Murray Zinck introduced the following:

"The Policy of the Church Memorial Park is to maintain a strong organization with working sub-committees of interested people; To organize and help where needed, to supervise or operate, if necessary, and to advance slowly and carefully".

Although the lack of ample funds has hindered somewhat all that the Park Trustees would like to undertake, they have managed to support and carry out their activities relating to the youth of the village.

The largest undertaking is the operation and maintenance of the Village Rink. Prior to the opening of the Chester Municipal High School, the park fully supported the Track and Field Club, held a "Presentation Night" at the end of the season's activities and now makes a yearly grant to the Track and Field Club. The Tennis Club, although part of the Park, is itself self-supporting, thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Anne Zinck. The Stamp Club and the 1st. Chester Boy Scouts are sponsored by the Church Memorial Park. Softball, for the younger boys, is also supported. On behalf of their interest in the youth, the Park has donated a substantial amount to the "Lido, Chester's Centennial Project."

When the Amateur Athletic Association ceased operation, it passed over to the Park their piece of land on the Valley Road. The land has been cleared, levelled and seeded, making an attractive property and greatly improves an entrance to the Village. This property is known as the Valley Road Park.

The Rink, which is on the old Lordly property, has been greatly improved through the generosity of the people, both in money and time. It is the hope of the future to replace the present "Shanty" with a new building for the use of the skaters.

At the Park itself, the Club House and Tennis Court House have been repaired and improvements made. A great deal of the thanks is due Mr. Lester Webber and Mr. Earle Conrod, Trustees, for their efforts in carrying out these improvements. A project for the future is that of beautifying the Park Grounds.

The present Trustees of the Church Memorial Park are:

H. Dudley Lees (Chairman)
 Murray N. Zinck (Vice-Chairman)
 Lois B. Webber (Secretary)
 Anne Zinck
 Earle Conrod
 Lester Webber
 Joseph Countway

The Acting Treasurer since the death of Henry W. Sunderland, our late Treasurer, has been the Chairman, H. Dudley Lees.

Officers of the Church Memorial Park 1928 - 1967

Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer
1928-54 Dr. R. E. Hennigar	Mrs. C. I. Hiltz	Mrs. C. I. Hiltz
1954-57 Murray N. Zinck	Mrs. C. I. Hiltz	George Eklof
1957-58 Murray N. Zinck	Mrs. Stella Donnachie	George Eklof
1958-59 H. Dudley Lees	Mrs. Stella Donnachie	Murray N. Zinck
1959-60 H. Dudley Lees	Mrs. Lois Webber	Cpl. Mattson, R.C.M.P.
1960-61 H. Dudley Lees	Mrs. Lois Webber	H. W. Sunderland
1961-64 Walter Webber	Mrs. Lois Webber	H. W. Sunderland
1964-65 George Hilchie	Mrs. Lois Webber	H. W. Sunderland
1965-67 H. Dudley Lees	Mrs. Lois Webber	H. W. Sunderland H. Dudley Lees

To raise funds, the Park Trustees hold an Annual Garden Party on Dominion Day, and sponsor Telephone Bridge and Forty-Fives and Ice Carnivals.

This information was compiled by Mrs. Annie Zinck.

Sources: Old Minutes and letters in Park Trustees Files; Mrs. Lois Webber, Secretary Park Trustees; Copy of E. P. Webber's address at the formal opening, which appeared in the Progress-Enterprise; Mr. Cottnam Smith's History of Chester, and Registry of Deeds Office.

THE RED CROSS

The history of the Red Cross in Chester and the surrounding area is a proud record of endeavour and achievement. It was an active and highly successful organization from its beginning during the First World War, and until the present day. The co-operation shown and amount of work accomplished reflects great credit on the citizens of this area.

The first president, Dr. Clara Olding Hebb, and secretary, Mrs. Frank Freda, with members, Mrs. Cull Smith, Mrs. Frank Mitchell, Mrs. Douglas Mills, Mrs. Lordley and Mrs. Stanley Zinck, to name a few, were immediately faced with the task of raising money. This they did by holding garden parties, regattas, card parties, flower shows and dances.

The Red Cross was reorganized in 1939 under the leadership of Mrs. Winthrop Bell, and later taken over by Mrs. Carol Manning for eight successful years. Mrs. Earl Morash has kept the minutes of the Red Cross books since 1939. A notable achievement of twenty-seven years. It is from these recordings we present our facts.

Once again the members raised money by dances, fairs, bingoes, garden parties and teas. By August of 1940 the amount of one thousand eighty-four dollars and seventy-six cents was raised. Mr. Piggott, the manager of the local Bank of Nova Scotia, followed by his successors, have given of their time as treasurer of this Red Cross.

In 1939 Mrs. W. Bell, Mrs. Hebb, Dr. Croft, Mr. Cottnam Smith, Mr. Winthrop Bell and Mr. R. C. Levy organized the outlying areas into Red Cross branches. These were New Ross, Blandford, Marriott's Cove, Chester Basin, East River Point, Martin's Point, Martin's River, Western Shore, Gold River, Forties, Lake Ramsey and Fox Point.

The year 1940 was a busy one. Three hundred pounds of wool, bought from Prince Edward Island, was made up into garments. Mrs. O. W. Evans was the capable work convener, at her resignation she was succeeded by Mrs. Murray Baker. Mrs. Greta Elliott was appointed to keep the records of material sent out and finished work returned.

In 1941 a Superfluity Shop was opened in Gorman's Store. This was a successful move to raise money. A Jam Company was given one hundred dollars and Mr. Fred Butler and his helpers collected two hundred and ninety-six pounds of aluminum.

A special committee was formed to handle money for treats for Chester soldiers overseas and also for the Norwegian Home in Chester.

In the spring of 1942 the Masonic Hall was made available as an Emergency Hospital. It was equipped and stocked by the A. R. P. and the local Red Cross. A second post was established at Marriott's Cove.

In 1942 a cheque was sent in to headquarters at Halifax for thirty-five hundred dollars. A Canadian Red Cross Municipal Better Health Program was organized and funds from dances were to be set aside for this project. A pony was given by Mr. Fred Porter and the sale of tickets on this pony realized one hundred and eighty-one dollars.

In 1946 a valuable Peace Time project was established, that of teaching children in swimming and water safety classes. Chester Centennial Project is a follow-up of this. The building of a swimming Lido, which is advancing rapidly to its completion.

The Blood Donor Clinic is another successful Red Cross Project, that continues each year under the convenership of Mrs. G. Eklof and later by Mrs. A. Haack. The following people have received Citations for giving twenty donations of blood, Murray Zinck, Peter Wilkins, Wallace Green, Captain Earl Jennex and Trigby Ostli.

The Chester area contributes generously to the Red Cross Annual Drive. Thus the work of the Red Cross goes on, following the example of those leaders that started the work here in Chester.

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Canadian Order of Foresters is a Fraternal as well as being an Insurance Organization, which supplies Insurance to its members at a modest premium rate. Court Chester No. 859 of the Canadian Order of Foresters received its Charter from the High Court at Brantford, Ontario, on March 2nd., 1901.

The Charter Members of the Court were:

Dr. P. W. Kelly
W. M. Evans
E. B. Butler
E. A. Butler
A. Stanford
H. A. Evans
W. H. Robinson

Robert M. Williams
Ira M. Walker
E. C. Fleet
Henry A. Morash
Burton Hennigar
Harry J. Maddeford
Charles A. Finley

J. A. Dauphinee
N. St.C. Chandler
P. John Freda
C. H. Evans
Lawrence Barry
Wm. W. Cole

The Court has operated for a period of sixty-six years and until the past three or four years, has been very active in the Community.

There are no records to show who the first officers were of Court Chester, but it is interesting to note the members who are still living, who joined the Court between the years of 1902 and 1910:

J. Roy Hennigar	Nov. 5th 1902	Charles Rafuse	Nov. 10th 1910
Douglas E. Morash	Jan. 17th 1906	Harold Hilchie	Nov. 14th 1910
William Dauphinee	Dec. 11th 1907	Clifford Houghton	Nov. 14th 1910
Henry E. Mitchell	Nov. 9th 1910	Gordon Nauss	Nov. 14th 1910
Edmund Feader	Jan. 27th 1910	Grover Cleveland	Nov. 14th 1910
Charles Chase	Nov. 9th 1910	Arthur Freda	Nov. 14th 1910
Howard Webber	Nov. 9th 1910	Edgar Meisner	Nov. 14th 1910

Since Court Chester received its Charter in 1901, two hundred and ninety-five members have been initiated into the Order. The present enrolment of the Court is ninety-six.

The Present Officers of Court Chester No. 895 are:

Jr. Past Chief Ranger - Fred Evans	Financial Secretary - M. L. Zinck
Chief Ranger - Manson Stevens	Treasurer - Allan Stevens
Vice Chief Ranger - Allan Bremner	Chaplain - Lloyd Barkhouse
Recording Secretary - Alex. Ray	

The above information was gathered from the Records of Court Chester No. 895 at Chester, Nova Scotia by Mrs. Annie Zinck.

FRATERNAL LODGES

Orange Lodge.

By Mrs. Horace P. Zinck.

The first Orange Lodge was organized in 1870. Later a Lodge was started in Chester Basin. Francis Conrad and Angus Zwicker were organizers.

The first hall in Chester was sold to pay a mortgage of \$200.00. The next hall was built on the George Millett property, the present site of the Bank of Nova Scotia. Again this meeting place was sold to redeem a \$600.00 mortgage.

Chester Orange Lodge No. 14 met where the Cavendish house now stands. The early building was burned and all records lost.

Chester Basin Lodge came to Chester and rented space for two years from Henry Hiltz, the undertaker. The ladies were asked to help financially, so with Mrs. Con Church as Convener, a Guild was formed. Later when the Guild was fully organized, Mrs. Henry Hiltz was appointed President, and Mrs. Will Mitchell, Treasurer, an office she held for twenty-seven years. Dues were twenty-five cents.

In 1910 the Lodge met above the blacksmith shop of Mr. Cullen Smith. Later they purchased this property and erected the present Orange Hall. Money for the building was earned by teas and garden parties. By 1927 it was debt free.

The ladies organized the True Blue Lodge in 1921.

Some of the original members were Mrs. Con Church, Mrs. Henry Hiltz, Miss Hattie Nauss, Miss Olive Rafuse, Mrs. Jesse Morash, Mrs. Will Mitchell, Mrs. Maggie Boutilier, Mrs. Bill Morash and Mrs. Will Graves.

Information obtained from Miss Hattie Nauss.

Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Douglas Crawford, a former Bank Manager has sent us the following notes on the Masonic Lodge in Chester. His wife when in Chester was a valued Women's Institute member.

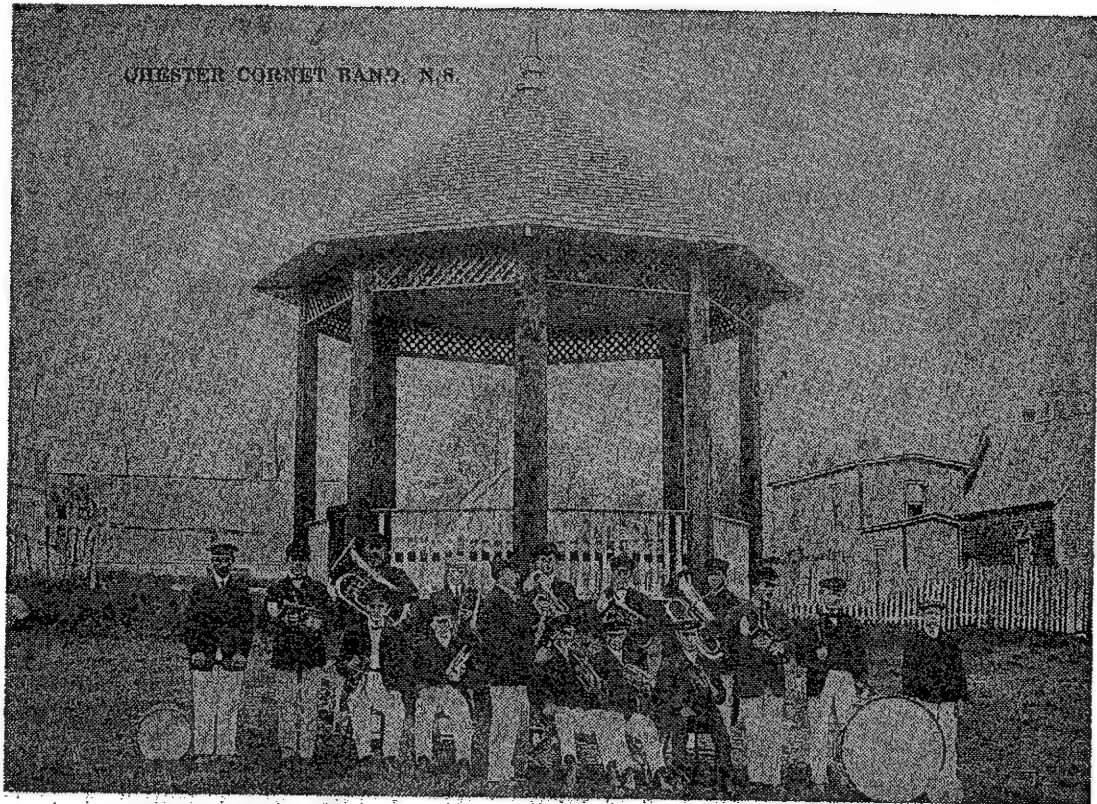
The first Lodge in Chester was instituted on Dec. 8, 1774 and was known as Chester Lodge No. 9. I have been able to obtain quite a bit of information on this Lodge from the returns submitted to Grand Lodge which are still intact. This Lodge ceased operating about 1809 due to the age of its members, which had been reduced to 7 in number. In going over the list of members, the only one that ties in with Chester people was Timothy Houghton.

Clark Lodge No. 61 held its first meeting on Dec. 29, 1870, and will soon be 100 years old. Robert D. Clarke the founder, and after whom the Lodge was named was active in Chester Basin and Halifax before retiring in Chester in 1869. He died in 1883 and is buried in St. Stephen's Church Yard, Chester. Clarke Lake just outside of Chester Basin would have been named after Robert D. Clarke.

THE CHESTER CORNET BAND

In the year 1873 the first band was organized in Chester and known as the Chester Brass Band. The leader was John Smith, formerly of Windsor. His successor as bandmaster was the late Henry A. Hiltz, followed by Seymour Brown, both of Chester. This Brass Band carried on until 1891 when it disbanded.

In 1905 the band was re-organized by the past bandmaster, H. A. Hiltz, and others. It became incorporated in 1906 as the Chester Cornet Band. Following Mr. Hiltz's resignation in 1908 he was succeeded by Perlle Nass of Chester, followed by the late Lieutenant Walter Whitford, and later by Owen Nauss of Chester.



The above picture was taken in 1906.

Standing: William Bowser, William Nauss, Jimmie Houghton, Douglas Morash, Henry Hiltz, Bandmaster, Arthur Smith, Perlle Nauss, Austin Evans, Artemas Feader, Lorne Nauss, Fred Nauss.

Seated: Walter Whitford, Owen Nauss, Low Barry, Perry Corkum, Frank Mills.

The Bandsmen still living are Douglas Morash, Arthur Smith and Perry Corkum.

The Bandstand was up where Mrs. Bruce Hawboldt's house is now. It was moved to the Parade Grounds in 1908.

At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Bandsmen Frank Hilchey and Carl Mills enlisted for overseas, later followed by Walter Whitford, Arthur Freda, Perlle Nass, Neil Brown and Austin J. Evans. Frank Hilchey and Neil Brown were killed in action.

The Band during this time was at a disadvantage due to the loss of so many valuable members, but it still carried on under Bandmaster Owen Nauss, assisted by Douglas Morash. The band played at recruiting meetings etc. at Chester, New Ross and Blandford. In 1923 the Band disbanded.

On January 24, 1935, Chester Cornet Band again re-organized under Bandmaster Perlle Nass, who returned from Massachusetts, where he had resided for many years following his return from overseas. In 1938 Mr. Nass resigned and was elected an honorary member. Mr. Aubrey Evans was then appointed Bandmaster.

At the annual meeting, held in January, 1939, the following officers were elected: Bandmaster — Aubrey Evans, Assistant Bandmaster — Richard Frail, Secretary-Treasurer — Austin J. Evans, Managing Committee — Richard Frail, Maurice Zinck, Harry Stevens, President — Clifford Corkum, Vice-President — R. Frail, Trustees — Douglas Morash, R. Frail, C. Corkum, Auditor — Fred Butler.

Upon the outbreak of World War II in September, 1939, Maurice Zinck, Harold Nauss and Earle Cornelius signed up for Active Duty with the West Nova Scotia Regiment on September 10th. Maurice and Harold spent Christmas on the ocean, having sailed with the First Division of the Canadian Army for England.

Other Bandsmen who signed up for service at a later date were:

Army — Harold Dauphinee, George Corkum and Douglas Morash Jr.

Navy — Eugene Morash and Allan Morash Jr.

Airforce — Lewis Nauss, Fred Evans, Arthur Nauss and Fred Bremner.

Bandsman Richard Frail had left for England to join the British Army in February in 1939.

Band practices have been held in an unfinished upstairs room in the Chester Elementary School in the early days and then in the old Evans' Barber Shop and in the old Temperance Hall. In 1944, the Band joined the Reserve Army, left the Temperance Hall and used the Legion Hall for practices. At present the members meet in the Fire Hall.

The Band plays at all Garden Parties, Remembrance Day Services and Parades; holds Band Concerts at the Bandstand on the Parade Grounds during the summer, and charters the Tancook Ferry "Shoreham" for cruises to Mahone Bay and Deep Cove on Sunday afternoons.

At the Annual Meeting in 1966, the following officers were elected:

Fred Bremner (President)

Ralph Stevens (Vice-President)

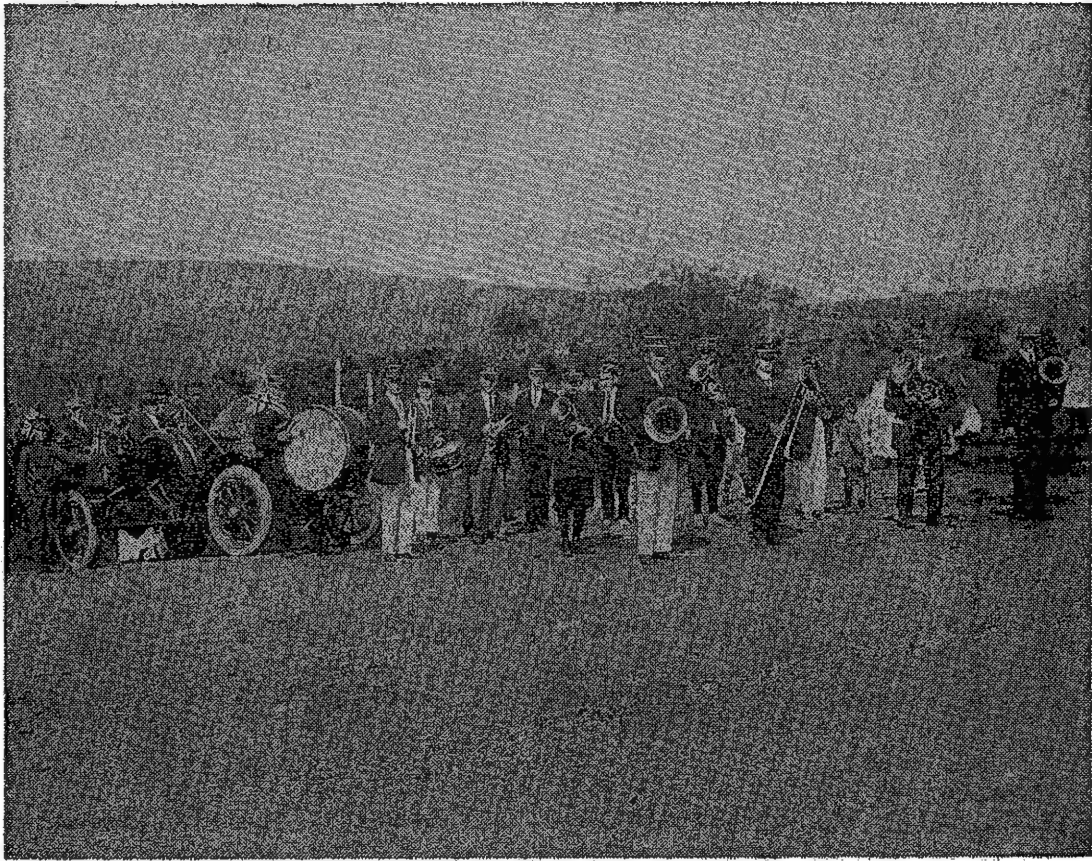
Douglas Little (Secretary-Treasurer)

Harvey Nauss (Bandmaster)

Dr. Rod Fraser (Assistant Bandmaster)

Sources: Minute Book of the Chester Cornet Band, beginning in 1911; Newspaper clipping which appeared in January, 1939; Aubrey Evans, past Bandmaster.

Information compiled by Annie E. Zinck



This picture was taken at the C.N.R. Station in September 1914.

The Occasion was a farewell to Carl Mills, Laurie Mitchell, Howard Bond, and Frank Hilchie who were the first soldiers from Chester to go Overseas in World War I. The car belonged to Col. J. L. Miller and was the first car owned in Chester. It was driven by Charles Church.

The Bandmen are: Walter Whitford, Lester Evans, Perlie Nauss, Stillman Smith, Clayton Nauss, Earl Millett, (Drum) Lorne Nauss, Austin J. Evans, (Bass) Frank Nauss, Douglas Morash (Slide Trombone), Neil Brown, Arthur Freda, and Arthur Smith.



CHESTER CORNET BAND 1952

Members — Standing: Fred Bremner, Gerry Zinck, Eugene Morash, Lewis Nauss, Brian Webber, Cliff Corkum, Maurice Zinck.
 Seated: Aubrey Evans, Grant Hiltz, George Corkum, Douglas Morash, Jr., Harvey Nauss, Carl Hiltz, Harry Stevens.
 Bandmaster: Aubrey Evans.
 Assistant Bandmaster: Harvey Nauss.

BOAT BUILDING



Some of the early ships built here in Chester were built by Charles Hilchey who died at Chester in 1877, so information derived from DesBrisay's History tells us. Mr. Hilchey built about three hundred boats. He was a famous workman. His son, Samuel, who worked with him, has carried on the same business and built one hundred boats and repaired about a thousand. He built twenty centre-board and seine boats and twelve dories by 1894.

William Marvin, who died in 1872 and Charles Walther, who died in 1894 built a great many boats in Chester. Mr. Marvin built over 350.

The "Stanford Boat Building Co." organized 1894, built 50 dories and 28 other boats in Chester. Many of these were among the finest that have been seen in the country.

"The Hound", a two-master schooner, was built by Mr. Andrew Walker on the shore of the back harbour below what used to be the Peter Walker property in 1886. This ship was used at first in the South America trade and mastered by Capt. Neville of Port Medway so my father, Edmund Fader, tells me.

The Eliza Cooke also a two-masted schooner was built about the same time as the Hound but in the front harbour very near to where Mr. Douglas Morash has his workshop now.

"The Leo", a barque was built about where the Chester Yacht Club building now stands by Stephen Morash of Lunenburg for Capt. Parks, who lived in the village at that time.

Since those early times this art of boat building has been carried on by the sons and their sons in turn of our early forefathers down to the present day. To-day, however, I think there is somewhat of a change in style for as in early times ships were built for necessity but to-day a great many are built for pleasure alone and others for a more basic use but not entirely for necessity.

By some quirk of nature Capt. James Morgan settled in our village. He had served with the British Navy at the time of the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. This well versed man brought much of value to his chosen land. His descendants either followed the sea or built sea-faring vessels or were influential in other ways so Mrs. Jessie (Zinck) Richards, a descendant of Capt. Morgan informs me.

Another descendant of Capt. Morgan and a famous ship builder of to-day is Mr. John Barkhouse, who is shortly thinking of retiring after finishing his started project. He has a backlog of over 450 boats of different types built by him. His choice was the schooner type but he also built yachts which took adventurers over the seven seas.

Perry Stevens, along with his two sons, Emery and Gerald, and a fourth member, Donald Duff, formed the Chester Seacraft Industries Ltd. in 1945. The first keel was laid in Oct. 1946 for a 34' schooner. Later they built motor boats, auxiliaries, and sailing dinghies. Donald Duff was bought out in 1951 and the father and son membership existed until 1956 when controlling interest was acquired by Messrs. William A. Pope, John Maxwell, and Alan Mitchell. This Chester Seacraft Industries Ltd. ceased to exist in 1958 and Mr. A. Mitchell and Mr. Emery Stevens operated from 1958-60 as Mitchell and Stevens Ltd. This company built outboard and inboard power cruisers. Mr. Mitchell now lives on the peninsula and is still operating a boat building business. Mr. Mitchell is still building similar cruisers, since this company dissolved, with a limited amount of Fibre-glass construction.

Gerald Stevens is active in the ship building art as an individual. Some of his ships have gone as far as South America and even Spain. He has built quite a number of 38' schooners for Nova Scotia markets. Keels will be soon laid for two 50' cruisers.

Mr. Ray Fitness built plywood outboard cabin cruisers at the workshop of Mr. Henry Mitchell for some years. His company was known as the Blue-Water Industries Ltd.

Some yachts of renown in this area that have been around for a considerable length of time are the —

1. "Whim" - owned by Mrs. Alberta Pew and often sailed by my father, Edmund Fader.

2. "Hayseed" - owned by the Wurtz family. This yacht, I am told, is noted for her tall, curved mast. Probably the only one of its kind in this area.

3. "White Heather" - owned jointly by Miss D. Gilman and Miss Paxon. As a school girl, I have often wondered why this yacht was named the "White Heather" and so have now taken the liberty to ask. Miss Gilman tells me she was asked on the way to the christening what name she had chosen and repeated "The Heather". Mrs. Frank Freda was present and suggested the "White Heather" for luck and so we have the graceful "White Heather." This ship was the first one to be built by Mr. Reuben Heisler after he moved to Chester from Tancook in 1926. Miss Gilman owned "White Wing" before "White Heather."

4. Mrs. Horace Zinck (Peggy Robinson) just brought to my attention the fact that her father, Nathaniel Robinson, in account with his brother-in-law, Weston Evans, built and sailed a yacht between 1896 and 1906 that took many top honors in the sailing events of that period. I would like to mention that this yacht, the Maple Leaf, had no less than pure silk sails, which is quite an extravagance even for to-day but nothing was too good for that ship, so these two sailors thought. Mrs. Zinck and her sisters have quite a number of trophies captured by the Maple Leaf along with a huge flag and a pennant made by her mother which I presume flapped in the breeze on the mast-head while she was going through her races. Mrs. Robinson donated her time and effort into making this pennant as a token of good luck for her husband, Nat's, yacht.

With the village of Chester in such close communion with the sea and its ships it seemed only fitting that there should be a headquarters for all sailing activities and so the Chester Yacht Club was formally organized in 1901. In the first years before the Club house was built meetings were held anywhere, most of them over a barber shop. Not many people know that on the same spot as the Club house stands, Steve Morash, a master builder built the barkentine "Leo". The founders of the Chester Yacht Club were Mr. Bruce Mills, Mr. Edmund Fader and Mr. Edward Robinson.

At this point I shall insert a copy of The Reminiscence of an Old-Timer, written by my father, Edmund A. Fader and sent to me in 1959. If there should be some repetition kindly excuse as I wish to print it as he originally wrote it. He is now 93 years young and still enjoys a boat race.

REMINISCENCE OF AN OLD-TIMER

About the year 1885 our first sailing races began. We had regattas before that but they consisted of different types of rowing races and other water sports, running races and other amusements on shore. The year 1885 sticks out in my memory because that year the circus came to town and the manager promised several of us boys free passes if we would help construct the ring (which was placed where the flowers now grow on the Parade).

We were very eager to help, but said manager had a poor memory and

we never got the passes and naturally we were very disappointed, but we had fun anyway watching the races and seeing the folks get skinned at the shell and soap game.

That year they were having sailing races and had invited boats from Lunenburg, Mahone and the two Tancooks. There were great arguments between the two Tancooks about which was the better boat, the Little Tancook sloop or the Big Tancook whaler. The Little Tancook sloop had a very high square stern and the rudder outdoors. The Big Tancook whaler had a sharp (or Pinkey) stern and the rudder outdoors. Whalers were schooner rigged and proved themselves wonderfully sea worthy and made a good name for themselves where ever they sailed. The first Whaler was built at Southeast Cove, Big Tancook, by Alfred Langille (Al) about 1880. Built on a keel a few years later they introduced the centreboard. This was triangular shaped, six to seven feet long by three to four feet wide at the aft end according to size of boat. This proved more satisfactory than the keel. These centreboards were $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick iron or steel. All boats had brown tanned sails. You never saw a white sail those days on a fishing boat. They made this dye by boiling black spruce bark with more gum attached the better, in great iron pots holding from 50 to 100 gallons, adding rigging tar and some logwood bark according to your taste for color. They did this to preserve the sails and to fill up the pores in the cloth, the better to hold the wind. Sails thus treated you had to wear out. They never got mildewed or rotted out. All boats built at that time were Lapstrake or Clinker sloops, had for sail, mainsail, jib, balloon jib and flying gaftopsail. The difference between a flying gaftopsail and a standing topsail, you clewed up to the masthead and sheeted out to end of gaff. The flying was on two poles and extended above the top of mast and out beyond end of gaff and a sheet so you could make it set by the wind which you could never do with a standing topsail. The balloon jib (so called) was just an overgrown flying jib or jib topsail.

The whalers were schooner rigged, mainsail, big foresail, jib and staysail. Would like to say a word about the old timers big foresail. It sheeted away back of the mainmast to the standing room (as the cockpit of today), had a heavy hardwood club with iron strap where the sheets hooked. In tacking, one man caught that club under his arm and walked around mainmast and hooked sheet on other side. Woe betide you if you lost your hold on that club. If there was a good breeze you were liable to get your ribs or head cracked, but they sure were a driving sail. The staysail was another very important sail on those boats and I don't think there is any man in the world that could beat the Tancookers in making and getting the most out of staysails. (That is fisherman type). A Tancooker always carried his staysail to windward of foresail, had two sheets on it and when tacking he let his forehalyard go and let staysail go around fore peak quickly, hoist it to windward and sheet it home. In racing when running before wind, wing and wing, or as the Tancook fisherman called it "Split Open", they had a pole to which they attached staysail and hoisted it to the topmast, making a square-sail out of it, which they called "scandalizing the staysail". Anyway it was very effective. I can still remember some of the old time greats that were renowned for their ability to handle a boat in any kind of weather and Big

Tancook David Baker "Old Shop" was, I believe the daddy of them all, closely followed by Al Langille, Hip Baker, Zip Wilson, Wesley and Leander Young. The Stevens are a younger generation on Little Tancook, Jerry Levy to my mind was top man in sloops, closely followed by Casper, Nathan and Bert Levy. In fact all the men on both Islands were good. They had to be, to wrest a living from the sea in all kinds of weather. This younger generation doesn't know any more about carrying the club of a foresail around the mainmast than I know about flying an airplane. All these people I am writing about built their own boats and made the sails. I believe that Regatta Day, 1885, Jerry Levy won the sailing race and the next day a Tancook Whaler won. Those regattas lasted two days. There was no handicap. They would start together and the first boat in won. They were all open boats with inside rock ballast which you were permitted to shift to windward. They always carried a couple of strong men to shift ballast. I remember one occasion when the "Black Nanc", Welsely Young's whaler, carried her spar out. She almost upset to windward. From that year onward interest in sailing races began to take hold. The merchants and public spirited people of Chester donating the prizes, which consisted sometimes of a barrel of flour or 100 lb. bag of sugar, hats, money, anything useful in the home — money was scarce and was appreciated. For a boat crew could get a wonderful view on life for a dollar or fifty cents more, best of ale fifty cents a gallon, good rum at one dollar a quart. They were all good God-fearing people, but they did not let it spoil their lives too much.

When these regatta committees were formed, they always chose Edward Robinson (Mrs. MacNeill's father) to lead them. Ned, as he was always called, could get more entertainment out of a dollar than any person I ever knew. Pity we have not some like him in Parliament. They would hire a schooner as a committee boat, anchor it in the Harbor and carry on their activities from there. From those regattas started the first yacht racing. Proven by this fact, the one and only Randolph Stevens and brothers were herring fishing in the Togo (a boat built for them by Amos Stevens, their father) hearing there was a fisherman's race in Halifax and boats from Cape Sable and Canso were entered, so nothing must do but hustle home, throw out the fish and gear and make off in the night. No time to stand boat ashore and clean bottom, just made it in time to enter and won the race. That is only one of many achievements he made in his racing career since then.

Tancook did not have all the good sailors — Chester had quite a quantity of good men, but of a different type. Deep sea captains, like Captain McGowan that built the Anchorage, Falt, Allen, Lordly. I remember when Captain Lordly sailed his barque into Chester harbor and anchored off of where the Yacht Club is now. It was a mistake for him as he had orders to proceed direct to New York. But having head winds and finding himself off Chester and being in love with a girl there, he decided to come in, but the insurance did not like the idea, too dangerous, so he lost command of his ship and his girl too. He got another girl, but not another ship.

Then Chester had another group of captains, fishing captains that mostly sailed Gloucester fishermen, the Richardsons, Nausses, Corkums, Morashes, all successful skippers. This class was always racing to make the mar-

ket. There was still another group, the coastal captains as the Evans, Barrys, Coles, Corkums, Bonds, Barkhouses, Fredas, Churches and Chandlers. As for the Evans, they have the salt in their blood from way back. Their forefathers fought with Nelson at Trafalgar and I could tell stories about Capt. Martin Evans' achievements which you would not think possible. I have sailed with him and know they are true tales.

Along about 1894, the tourist trade began to increase and the demand for boats grew. Andrew Walker built two that winter for the trade, the Petrel and Maryland. I think they were the first boats built in Chester, seam work and with overhanging sterns and the rudder head through the deck. I sailed the Petrel that summer. She was tricky and kept you on your toes all the time and sailed like a toad in tar. I think the first yacht we had in Chester for pleasure only was owned by a Mr. Brown that owned and lived in the Anchorage. She was yawl rigged and I think her name was Zeta. Us boys used to think she was wonderful.

In 1898 I had Amos Stevens build me the sloop Virginia. She was about thirty-three feet over all, eight feet something beam, centre board $\frac{3}{8}$ in. steel. I would like to compare prices then with today. I made a contract with Amos Stevens to build the boat, me furnishing the lumber, he the nails, centre board and iron work and paint, price \$90.00. Cut the pine planking myself, 1,000 board feet cost me \$3.00 to get it sawed, \$1.50 to get it planed. Paid \$7.50 for bottom hardwood stem and stern. Joe Pearl made the sails for \$40.00, finding the material, mainsail and jib, Mt. Vernon duck, balloon and topsail lighter material, 102 yards in all. They did not measure by square feet then. The duck was 28 inches wide, but the light sail was wider. Had 1,500 lbs. of pig iron and beach stones for ballast, paid \$7.50 for iron and won a lot of races with that boat and have often wondered if she had been rigged like the boats of today if she would not have made a good showing. A sister boat, the Lido, Charles Duncan owner, built at the same time by Amos Stevens and then the racing began in earnest. We were getting quite a fleet by that time. I remember about that time all the boats sailed over to Mahone with their people. There were 33 boats in the fleet. We left at 10 in the morning and spent the day. The reason I remember it so well was we never made one tack going or coming back. All the skippers went to the Aberdeen Hotel for dinner and what 33 young fellows did to that food was worth seeing. Poor Jim Langille, the proprietor, was pretty near crazy trying to find enough to eat. The talk got stronger every day about forming a yacht club. Bruce Mills, Ned Robinson, Capt. Lordly and others began rounding up the boys and now you see the fruits of their labors. It is no use telling about the success Randolph Stevens had in the Dixie, Capt. Harold Hilchie in the Caprice and Hayseed or George Freda had in the White Heather or Mike Dwyer in the Atlanta and the achievements of Bertie Pew in the Whim. That is all in the book of the C.Y.C., but there is one thing that is not on the books and that is how George Hilchie, Harold's father, Haman's skipper, used to go in the races all alone and win too. All he needed for a crew was plenty tobacco and his pipe. I could tell tales about him too. He used to carry lobsters and always made it in all weather. Often heard the Boss say when George arrived at the wharf, "Blowing hard outside

George?" And he would answer in that timid voice of his, "Just a *little* breeze". I have seen George's little breeze keep the boats of the C.Y.C. tied to their moorings.

There is a difference between earning a living and doing it for fun. Amos Stevens built a number of good boats and helped materially in building up the prestige of the C.Y.C. The first seam work boat built on Tancook was by Amos Stevens for Dave Freda of Chester. Reuben Heisler was a younger man and built many fine boats which are going strong today. He was an honest builder and to my mind never received the credit due him. As Bill Butler once stated, "There is no bad rum, but some is better than others."

In all the years C.Y.C. has been in operation, there has never been a serious accident. The only near one was when the Laura sank in a sudden squall racing and when Andy Anderson carried the spar out of the Sapphire coming from racing in Halifax in a gale and heavy seas.

In closing I would like to pay tribute to those that have gone on to "Sailors' Snug Haven", who by their efforts made C.Y.C. possible.

E. A. Fader

Founders of Chester Yacht Club

Bruce Mills
Edmund Fader
Edward Robinson

As I reread this manuscript, I believe I have given the impression that all things pertaining to boats and the sea were strictly on a business basis but this is not entirely so. On Sept. 4th, 1856, a grand regatta was held at Chester. I believe this became a yearly event for quite some time to come. This first regatta, as we are told in DesBrisay's History, was quite an event with more than 3000 persons present. There were seven different boat races conducted ranging from gigs of 4 oars, whale-boats of 4 oars, flats, punts, canoes and sail-boats. The winners all getting prizes of money. The regatta terminated with general illumination, fine torchlight procession and a beautiful display of fire works.

In or about the year 1858 a race came off in the harbour of Chester between two boats rowed by ladies. The crew of the winning boat were Annie Richardson, Bessie Garrison, Mary Jane Smith and Belle Barry dressed in white trimmed with blue. Charles E. Church (later commissioner of works and Mines) was steersman.

The other crew, dressed in pink, were Helen Richardson, Mary Kearney, Ellen Barry, and Annie Porter with John Richardson as steersman. The rowing of both crews were excellent. The course was from Mitchell's wharf to a boat moored about half a mile distant, and return. Much interest was excited and a huge crowd assembled.

A ball, numerously attended, was given in honor of the winners with a grand supper at the Mulgrave House.

Would we call such an achievement enjoyment, to-day? I hardly think so and if we tried I am quite certain the crews would not be dressed so prettily. Yet, I sometimes think we have lost a great deal. I do know however, that most of us have lost the enjoyment in simple everyday, one-time pleasures. A rowing race for ladies and wearing a pretty dress? Imagine!!!

A small canal or passage-way for boats was constructed in 1864 - 1865 at the town end of Freda's Peninsula. This gives a shorter way of approach to Chester for people from different places and has been a great public convenience.

The loss of the brand new fishing schooner "The C. U. Mader" manned by a Capt. and complete complement of young manhood, all from this community, cast a gloom of lasting duration in the year of 1903. They sailed for the fishing grounds off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. No further news was heard from the crew after a terrific storm swept the southern coast of Nova Scotia in February.

About the turn of the century the steamer "Carrie" in charge of Capt. Justus Morash, carrying passengers and cargo from Halifax announced its arrival by means of a shrill whistle. Small vessels carrying on coastal trade plied between Chester and Halifax.

To-day, we have a ferry plying its way through the waters each day during the entire year between Chester, Ironbound and Tancook. The first ferry making this voyage of convenience for the people of the islands was built and captained by Mr. Stanley Mason. This was at first a private enterprise but later purchased by the government. It was called "The Tancook." The new ferry, Shoreham was built and started operating a few years ago. It runs once daily but handles emergencies when they arise.

To a few superstitious folk still living in Chester and vicinity the phantom ship, "The Teazer" appears quite often on the horizon in flames. The Teaser, an American Frigate, fearing capture chose to blow up their ship near our coast.

Yacht designs like everything else have changed over the years and some of the newer creations are faster than their counter parts of half a century ago. But, according to "old-timers" there isn't as much fun in racing as there used to be. However, I do hope that pleasure, excitement, and competition of boat racing will never wane in this beautiful little seaport village of Chester. How could it with the village so nearly surrounded by the beautiful waters of the Atlantic Ocean laping at its shores. We of the village, go about from day to day, I hope, ever mindful of our obligations to our Creator, our Sovereign and our fellow man.

Compiled by Mrs. Donald Zinck.



A TENNIS TEA — IN THE EARLY 1900's

The grass court and the Clubhouse, which was a log cabin, were situated where the Baptist Church now stands. This property was owned by Mr. Forman Hawboldt.

Some of the players met in Stanford's Studio on June 13th, 1910 to form a Tennis Club in Chester.

The following officers were elected:

President — Dr. A. E. Hennigar.

Vice President — Mrs. Owen Evans.

Secretary — A. K. Kaiser.

Treasurer — Arthur Stanford.

Executive — Rev. J. D. MacLeod, Carrol Manning, Ira Moland, Miss Ada Millett and Miss Leslie Cole.

A Constitution was drawn up and strictly enforced. The Membership was limited to twenty-five, fifteen ladies and ten gentlemen. Fees for ladies were two dollars and for men four dollars.

To join the club one had to be proposed or recommended by a member in good standing, balloted upon and duly accepted by the Club.

Mr. Wallace Cole's Tennis Court was engaged for the summer of 1910 and was used by the Club for several years.

Annual Meetings were held at Dr. A. E. Hennigar's Dental Office, Mrs. Owen Evans' Parlor, Mr. A. Stanford's Ice Cream Parlor, the Foresters' Hall and H. S. Zinck's Store. The last meeting that was recorded in the Club's Minute Book was in 1914 in Arthur Stanford's Office.

Tennis has always been a very popular sport in Chester. Private Courts were numerous. The Lovett House and the Hackmatack Inn had their own Courts. Tournaments were held every summer. Miss Leslie Cole was the Maritime Ladies Single Champion for a number of years. Mrs. Dorothy Hawboldt Jones was Ladies Maritime and Provincial Champion around 1930.

Dr. Philip Cole was a Junior Champion around 1937 and later played in Men's Doubles with Gordon Hughes of Windsor, Nova Scotia. Elizabeth Evans played in the junior and Senior Provincial Tournaments and received a ranking of sixth in the Ladies Singles.

The present Tennis Club was organized at a meeting of the Citizen's Park Committee held in the Zoe Valle Library in 1932. The Officers elected were Dr. L. H. Croft, President; Mrs. Owen Evans, Vice President; Mr. Murray Zinck, Secretary-Treasurer.

Due to the generosity of the late Senator Charles Church, the Courts and a Clubhouse had been built on the Park Grounds.

Since 1955, the Club carried on a very extensive program to promote Junior Tennis under the leadership of the President, Mrs. M. L. Zinck. Club Tournaments were held and our players participated in the South Shore District Tournaments at Liverpool and the Nova Scotia Provincial Tournaments held at Bridgewater and Dartmouth. David Morash and Joyce MacDonald won in the South Shore District Tournaments. Kathy Rothwell was ranked fourth in the Juvenile Girls Division for the Province and Mike Morash won the South Shore District Tournament in the under thirteen Class. He reached the finals in the mixed Pee-Wee Division held at Dartmouth. An invitational Tournament was held during the week of our Bicentennial Celebrations when players were entered from Halifax, Dartmouth and Bridgewater.

The Club engaged Tennis Pros. to instruct the Juniors. The Membership reached a high of sixty-five in 1960 when we had Mr. George Mansfield as Pro. Later Mr. Gonsalves, Bill Redden and David Pigot came to instruct.

The Present Officers of the Club are: President, Mrs. M. L. Zinck; Vice President, David Rockwell; Secretary-Treasurer, Edward Rutherford; Managing Committee, Lawrence Zinck, Maurice Zinck and Robert Rockwell.

Information compiled by Annie E. Zinck.

A HISTORY OF TRACK & FIELD IN CHESTER

Some 60 years ago there was considerable interest in Track and Field in the Chester area. Many races were held annually during celebrations bringing together local lads and American college athletes. There was no regulation track available and the races were run around various village blocks with the old barber shop at Queen and Pleasant Streets being the focal point of most races.

In 1927, when Clyde S. Fletcher was principal of the local school, a team was entered in the Acadia Relays. Some of these competitors were Albert Hughes, Kingsley Hume, Murray Zinck, and Karl Young. From this there followed several years of annual Meets in Chester, held on the Parade.

In the late thirties, under the organizing of Murray Zinck, the Chester High School developed a strong track team. Most of the emphasis was on Junior High School pupils, and then a good Senior High team was created. Both boys and girls were Fisheries Exhibition Champions in 1938.

After the last war things picked up gradually and in 1953 the local school again had a team in the South Shore Meets. By 1958 a new crop of stars was developed.

From this time to the present, Track has grown in the Chester area. The Coach of most of the school teams and of the current Chester Track & Field Club is Murray Zinck who has had the benefit of being assisted in attending Canadian Legion Coaches Clinic in Ontario. At the present time Chester has the strongest Age Class Track & Field Team in Nova Scotia. In 1965 we won high score in three out of five Nova Scotia Meets, and in 1966 were tops in two of four and were beaten only by Provincial Prince Edward Island teams in the other two. For the last two years we have had more members on the Nova Scotia team in Canadian Age Class meets and have won more National Achievement Awards than any other team in the Province.

During the past three years the boys and girls of the area have been fortunate in having a regulation 440 yards track and field to practise on. There has also been an annual July 1 Track Meet as well as High School Meets in Chester. This has led to having a considerable number of Provincial Age Class and High School Champions in our midst, as well as Provincial record holders.

Information from
Murray Zinck
"Coach"

THE CHESTER BOY SCOUTS

The First Chester Boy Scouts were organized by Rev. Fred M. Clay in 1917. They held their meetings in a large tent erected where Mrs. Richard Frail's property is now, and in the home of Mrs. Thomas Whitford.

Some of the Scouts in 1917 - 1919 were:

Cyril Houghton
Jack Robinson
Paul Cornelius
Frank Cornelius
Ian Mitchell

Mike Zinck
Wesley Smith
Emmerson Smith
Hughie Graves
Aubrey Evans

Information from the Boy Scout Headquarters at Halifax shows that the Chester Scouts were first registered on May 26th, 1919 with Rev. M. Clay as Scoutmaster. Further registrations were as follows:

June	30/21	Registration shows that Scout Master S. M. Clay was a Tenderfoot at the age of twelve.
March	22/22	Scout Master J. H. Strong, Bank Manager, Chester Assistant Scout Master, Roy Silver.
Feb.	1/24	Scout Master, Charles Hiltz. Assistant Scout Master, Roy Silver.
1925		Scout Master, Charles Hiltz.
Nov.	30/26	Scout Master, Charles Hiltz.
May	1/29	Acting Scout Master, Walter Barkhouse.
Mar.	25/30	Scout Master, Walter Barkhouse.
Nov.	24/34	Scout Master, Richmond Longley, School Principal, to May 1937.
May	22/37	Scout Master, Herbert Hiltz to Dec. 1938.
Dec.	17/38	Scout Master (Acting) Frank Hiltz to June 1939.
June	19/39	Scout Master, Frank Hawboldt to Dec. 1941.

The Troop was inactive for several years but was again registered on:

Jan.	30/47	Scout Master, Frank Hawboldt to Oct. 1951.
Oct.	29/51	Scout Master, Earle Corkum (Acting).

The Troop was again inactive until 1952.

Nov.	20/52	Scout Master, J. F. Newcombe to Oct. 1953.
Oct.	10/53	Scout Master, Eric Hagen to Nov. 1962 with Assistant Scout Master, Walter Barkhouse for the years 1955-56 followed by Rowan Donnachi. From 1956 to 1959, the Assistant Scout Masters were Gerald Phinney and Peter Wilkins.

In 1962, the Scouts were divided into two Troops and registered:

Nov.	29/62	Scout Master, Peter Wilkins — A Troop.
		Scout Master, Walter Barkhouse — B Troop.
Nov.	28/63	Scout Master, Fred Butler, Jr. — A Troop.
		Scout Master, Walter Barkhouse — B Troop.

Assistant Scout Masters for 1963-64 were Waldro MacDonald and Captain Jennex.

Dec. 10/64 Scout Master, Waldro MacDonald — A Troop.
 Scout Master, Walter Barkhouse — B Troop.
 to Jan. 1966 registration year. Assistant Scout Masters 1965-1966, Gary Duff
 and Bob Inglis.

In 1965-66, "A" Troop became known as Venture Troop under Scout
 Master Walter Barkhouse and Earle Corkum as Assistant Scout Master.

The Boy Scouts held their meetings from 1919 until 1925 in the old Tem-
 perance Hall. Then they met in Laurie Corkum's Canteen until they pur-
 chased the old Methodist Church in 1926, which became known as the Scout
 Hall.

The first Group Committee for the Boy Scouts was formed around 1926
 and was comprised of Mr. Starr Mader, Mr. Harvey Zinck, Mr. Owen Evans
 and Mr. Ralph Barkhouse.

Funds are raised from the sale of Telephone Directories and by holding
 Apple Days.

The Scouts appear at all Remembrance Day Services at the War Memorial
 on the Parade Grounds and the Church Services. They hold Father and Son
 Banquets and take part in the Founder's Day programs in February, the skat-
 ing meets and Hobby shows at Bridgewater and in Operation Alert, a train-
 ing scheme taking place in the different counties. Their Camping Trips are
 held at Lake Mush-Mush.

In 1949, First Class Scouts, Fred Butler, Jr., William Smith, Thompson
 Smith attended the Jamboree at Ottawa. First Class Scout Max Beyreis was
 unable to make the trip. William Smith was presented with the Silver
 Medal by the Governor-General, Viscount Alexander, for having saved
 Forbes Baker from drowning in Stanford's Lake at Chester while skating

The first King Scouts from Chester were Frank Hawboldt and Walter
 Barkhouse. Eric Hagen, John Newcombe, Danny Hemphill and Robert
 Rutherford are holders of the Queen Scout Badge. James Barkhouse and
 Donald Grovestein were awarded their Queen Scout Badge in 1955 and Fred
 Hutchinson received his in 1963.

James Barkhouse attended a Jamboree at Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1955.

Donald Grovestein went to the World Jamboree in 1957.

In 1963, Eric Hagen and Captain Earle Jennex received their Gillwell
 Beads while Walter Barkhouse had the honour of receiving his Gillwell Beads
 award in 1931.

John Newcombe was appointed District Commissioner for Lunenburg
 County from 1962 to 1965 and it is said that he was the best worker that the
 District ever had to that date. He was followed as District Commissioner by
 Eric Hagen who holds this position to the present time.

Peter Wilkins has Gillwell Beads for Scouting, Cubbing and Rovers.

This Information was compiled by Annie E. Zinck.

Sources: Scout Headquarters at Halifax and Scoutmaster, Walter Barkhouse.

WOLF CUBS IN CHESTER

The First Chester Wolf Cub Pack was organized in Chester in 1932. The Cubmaster was Murray N. Zinck and Assistant Cubmaster was Maurice L. Zinck. The Group Committee consisted of Ralph Barkhouse, Starr Mader, H. S. Zinck and O. W. Evans. The Group was sponsored by the Women's Institute assisted by various other organizations in the village. The policy at that time was to build the Pack gradually from four boys who would become Sixers. They were to select another boy each who would become the Seconds of four future Sixes. The basic idea was to build slowly and soundly into a first class Pack, which would be an organization respected by the community and which all boys would wish to join.

The first year saw twelve boys join the Pack. One of the features was a week long Camp at East Chester, near the present Rod & Gun Club, at which the leaders were assisted by Bob MacPherson as Baloo.

In 1954, Miss Betty Manning re-organized the First Chester Pack, with the same standard policy. She was eminently successful and for almost ten years, until her transfer from the area, was Cubmaster of probably the best Cub Pack in Nova Scotia, perhaps Canada. The Pack was maintained at twenty-five boys, 4 Sixes and a Senior Sixer; and always had a long waiting list. The boys moved along to Two Star Cubs as a matter of course, and the Tests had to be passed in full.

More recently the Pack has been led by Mrs. Eric Hagen, Mrs. Evan Petley-Jones, Fred Corkum, Mrs. Peter Wilkins and others.

Cubbing is still a success in Chester, and the First Chester Pack is active with regular meetings, outings, bottle drives, etc. Fred Corkum is the present Cubmaster.

Information from Murray Zinck.

GIRL GUIDES

In the early fall of 1926 a number of Chester girls met with Mrs. Clyde Fletcher (wife of the Principal of the School), Mrs. C. I. Hiltz and Mrs. Claude Mills to discuss forming a Girl Guide Company. The first meetings were held in what was then known as the "Tin Shop."

On November 18, 1926, the first Chester Company was registered with Mrs. C. I. Hiltz, Captain, Mrs. Claude Mills, Lieutenant. Due to ill health, Mrs. Fletcher was unable to continue.

The guides met in the Forrester's Hall; the basement of the Empire Hall and later in the Methodist Church which is now the Scout Hall.

The first uniform was navy blue dress, light blue three cornered tie, black leather belt, broad brimmed navy felt hat with leather chin-strap, long black stockings and black shoes.

As the Guide Company grew it was decided to form a second Company. On December 13, 1933, the second company was registered with Mrs. Claude Mills, Captain, and Miss Olive Hiltz, Lieutenant. The first company remained under the leadership of Mrs. C. I. Hiltz, Captain, and Miss Lois Redden, Lieutenant.

The Companies disbanded in 1934.

The first Divisional Commissioner was Mrs. Norman Zwicker (mother of the late Dr. D. W. N. Zwicker) of Lunenburg.

RANGERS

The first Ranger Company was registered on December 9, 1929 with Mrs. C. I. Hiltz as Captain and Miss Joyce Mader, Leader. This Company was re-registered November 30, 1934. Disbanded in 1935.

BROWNIE PACK

The first Chester Brownie Pack was registered December 10, 1934 with Brown Owl - Mrs. Claude Mills and Tawny Owl - Miss Dorothy Hiltz.

The first representative of the Chester Local Association was Mrs. Perry Corkum of East Chester.

* Taken from "Guiding in Nova Scotia" — 1911 - 1936.

Written by Lois E. Giffin.

GIRL GUIDES

A few highlights that took place since reorganizing in 1950.

A bus was chartered to take Guides to Halifax to see Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip.

Betty Skuffham was chosen as one of the "guards of honor".

In 1960 Lady Baden Powell visited Nova Scotia. A rally was held in Lunenburg. Presidents of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Canadian Legion and the Women's Institute, Mrs. Harry Bond and Mrs. A. H. Marshall, Mrs. Perry Corkum, who had served as a council member for Girl Guides for a number of years, along with Girl Guides and Brownie leaders were invited to meet and have tea with Lady Baden Powell.

In 1955 the train carrying Governor-General Massey stopped at the station to meet Scouts, Cubs, Guides, Brownies and their leaders.

In 1959 the young people and their leaders took part in the parade

celebrating Chester's 200th birthday. Each year the Canadian Legion invite them to parade on November 11th.

For a number of years on July 1st., when the Athletic Association held their annual field day and garden party, the Guides have worked where ever they were needed.

In 1960 we celebrated our Jubilee year of Guiding with each company and pack from British Columbia to Nova Scotia planting golden tulips; the Garden Club came to our rescue and allowed us to plant our tulips at the Cove Garden.

Dr. M. A. Gibson has always been a great help to our organization. In 1955 he was presented with a "Thank you Badge". He has always arranged for us to hold our "Thinking Day Service" (the birthdays of both Lord and Lady Baden Powell) at the Baptist vestry and many times acted as our master of ceremonies at a moment's notice. In 1963 we moved to the auditorium of our new High School and of course he came along with us. Whitman Giffin, as a scout, played the piano for us on these occasions and over the years he still takes care of the music for our Thinking Day Service.

SPECIAL AWARDS

Guides

1955 — Sandra Evans received the highest honor in Guiding, "The Gold Cord". This was the first gold cord presented in Lunenburg County.

1960 — Sandra Munroe received her Gold Cord.

Rangers

1964 — Kathy Rothwell received her Gold Cord.

At each event, Testers, Special Speakers and Commissioners from the District were present. After the presentations were made a social hour was enjoyed.

Brownies

1958 — Diana Ray received the "Gilt Cross" for bravery. In the summer of 1957, while swimming, she saved the life of Mary Jane Evans. The presentation was made by Commissioner Mrs. H. A. Creighton.

Guides

Thank you Badges were given to:

Mrs. Aubrey Evans	1958
Mrs. Jack Corkum	1958
Mrs. Ward Tancock	1961
Mrs. Stuart Smith	1966

SPECIAL CAMPS

Our Chester Girl Guides have always been very good campers, camping at Lake Mush-a-Mush, Lunenburg County; Greenfield, Queens County, and Corkum's Lake. In 1958 Mrs. Bruce Oxner and Mrs. Stuart Smith accompanied twelve Guides from the province to the Ontario Girl Guide Camp at Doe Lake. Two Guides from Chester were chosen, Barbara Norris Rockwell and Sandra Newcombe Bezanson.

In 1960 Sandra Munro was chosen to attend Jubilee Camp at Hardwood Lake, Kings County. Only two girls from Nova Scotia attended this Camp; other Guides were two from each province in Canada, two from the United States and two from England.

1963 was the beginning of Heritage Camps. Mrs. Stuart Smith attended the Camp at Hardwood Lake. This camp was attended by eighty-five Guides, all born in 1941. The best twenty-two campers were to be chosen to attend Camps all across Canada.

1964 — Again Heritage Camp with two girls from each province in Canada and two girls from the United States. This was a mobile camp under Mrs. Basil Crouse of Lunenburg. Five days were spent at Lake Mush-a-Mush. Mrs. Stuart Smith attended this camp at Quartermaster. While the Guides stopped at Chester our Local Association chartered the Tancook Ferry to take the Guides and their leaders out around the Islands.

1963 — The Rangers held an adventure camp at Mason's Island. Mrs. Andrew Eisenhauer, Lunenburg, was Commandant of this camp. Four Chester Rangers attended.

1964 — Another Adventure Camp was held at Dartmouth. Two Rangers attended.

1964 — Kathy Rothwell was chosen to attend a Swimming and Life Saving Camp at Doe Lake, Ontario.

1965 — Four girls from Nova Scotia were chosen to attend Heritage Camp at Doe Lake, accompanied by Mrs. Stuart Smith.

1966 — Brenda Wilkins had the honor of being chosen to attend 1967 Heritage Camp, July of this year. While it is our Centennial year there will be Guides, Rangers and Leaders from United States, France, England, etc. Over fifteen hundred are to attend this Camp, to be held on Nairne and Morrison Islands on the St. Lawrence Seaway near Cornwall, Ontario. Brenda is one of our newer Rangers. She helped organize the company in 1966. Our new Leaders are busy as all Guides are.

A number of times Mariner Girl Scouts from United States arrived on Keasbey's yacht. They invited our Guides sailing and to stay on board over night. In return they were treated to picnics, suppers at the Park, etc.

The Women's Institute and Ladies Auxiliary sponsored the Guides and Brownies from 1949 to 1963. At that time a local Association was formed

consisting of mothers of the Guides, Rangers, and Brownies, and interested citizens. Mrs. Frank Lee was our president. The Ladies Auxiliary and the Women's Institute still help support the movement by each organization donating \$50.00 per year.

January, 1966, we held our first "pot luck supper" at the Baptist Vestry with our local Associations social convener, Mrs. N. Davis, and her committee taking charge. About 115 Guides, Brownies, Rangers etc. attending.

Mrs. Tancock stayed with the Brownies eleven years, with "fly ups, badges, parties" it was a busy time. Mrs. Evans was Guide Captain for eight years and only resigned due to ill health, but is still active passing tests, etc. When our local Association was formed Mr. Tancock accepted the job of being our Badge Secretary.

When the Legion moved from their old hall to the Lovett House the Brownies saved pennies and soon presented the Legion with an electric clock for their new hall. Then when they built their new hall, the Brownies sold "Life Savers" to earn money to present the Legion with pictures of the Queen and Prince Philip on their opening night.

Information from Ella Smith (Retired Dist. Commissioner.)

CHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Chester Fire Department was organized May 1st, 1936. The first meetings were held on the second floor of the store owned by Eugene Publi-cover.

The Fire Hall was completed in the year 1936 and the first fire engine purchased during that year.

Murray Mills was the first Chief, Scott Rutherford first Deputy Chief, with twenty-seven Charter Members. Since that time the following have held office as Chief — Murray Baker, Scott Rutherford, Orin Houghton and Ray Armstrong. The latter is the Chief at the present time.

The second fire engine was bought in the year 1953. The Fire Hall was destroyed by fire in the year 1959 and the first fire engine completely demolished. A new Fire Hall was erected in the year 1959 and 1960. The third fire engine was purchased in the year 1960.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Chester Fire Department was organized in the year 1959. The ladies raise money each year by having card parties, a pantry sale and sponsoring a tea at the Firemen's Garden Party. The money is donated to the firemen to be spent as they see fit.

The present equipment of the Fire Department consists of two fire engines, one panel truck and two auxiliary pumps.

There are twenty-nine members.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHESTER GARDEN CLUB

by Dena Hennigar

The Chester Garden Club was organized in April, 1939, sponsored by the Women's Institute, for the purpose of beautifying the Village. It was a small group but very active from the start. One of the first undertakings was to plant a small garden on the Parade Grounds, surrounded by a lawn. Several dwarf maples were planted as a background for the beautiful war memorial bronze statue which is there.

A few years later, as the Club grew larger, it started to fill in what had been the Village Dump at the head of the front cove. It was a big undertaking for a small Club and it took many years and many loads of fill and topsoil to transform an unsightly, rat-ridden spot into a small, restful green garden with shrubs and benches looking over the cove. A retaining wall had to be built to keep the high tides from spilling over the reclaimed land. This piece of land came up for sale and since the Garden Club could not afford to buy it Mr. Robin Hennigar of Chester Basin bought it and donated it to the Garden Club who now owns it. There are four trustees elected by the Club to care for it.

By this time the Club had become an independent organization. Other undertakings have been, supplying and maintaining several benches on the Parade Grounds. An added attraction on the Parade Grounds is an Armillary Sphere donated by Miss Gillman. This sun dial was made in Chester at the Hawbolt Foundry by the combined efforts of Keith Bond, Frank Hawbolt and Stewart Smith.

Scotch Pines were planted on the Eastern Hill, Valley Road and the Road around the Back Cove. The Village Christmas Tree is sponsored by the Club, also a Bulletin Board in front of the Post Office.

The Annual Flower Show has been held every summer and the number of entries has grown both in quantity and quality and is much enjoyed.

The funds necessary for all this work have been raised by members by means of membership fees, pantry sales, bridge and '45 marathons held during the winter and by donations. In the latter years a grant of \$50.00 per year is received from the Municipality to help in the upkeep of the Parade Grounds.

The people of Chester have been very co-operative and helpful as have been the summer visitors, many of whom participate actively as members and assist in many ways to make a success of the Chester Garden Club.

DR. D. W. N. ZWICKER
1921 - 1965

Early in 1921, to the beautiful sea-girt Village of Chester, Nova Scotia, with its deeply gutted shoreline, myriad islands and greatly fluctuating summer and winter population, there came a young doctor, Douglas William

Norman Zwicker, fresh from Post Graduate work in Baltimore, New York and Halifax, following service in World War I as Captain in a Stationary Hospital in France.

Native of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, graduate of Dalhousie Medical School, Class of 1917, with degrees M.D., C.M. - and honors in the latter - he chose to settle in Chester to do general practice in Surgery, Medicine and Obstetrics. In modern appraisal he was an "Old Fashioned Doctor", quietly dedicated and to the best of his ability true to the highest standards of his chosen profession. This was his creed and with courage, stamina and unlimited patience was to remain so until his passing forty-four years later.

Excepting only a four week serious bout of pneumonia in 1926, he practiced alone and without a holiday for nine years. A young graduate came then and stayed four years. Taking advantage of this, Doctor Zwicker twice journeyed to New York for combination refresher work and holidays. In later years there came annual refreshers in Montreal.

The area of practice involved was wide and scattered, reaching out from Chester and immediate districts, to Martin's Point, New Ross and environs for miles beyond, Blandford, Peninsula and included several inhabited islands - Quaker, Wilson's, two Tancooks', Ironbound and Green. Also, when at intervals no doctor was settled at Hubbards, the area was extended along and about the Bay shore to Peggy's Cove, at times a treacherous, icy drive in dark winter, about that rugged district.

The pace was not to the swift then as it is today, nor could it have been. Homes were more scattered, even isolated in farming areas, there were few cars and fewer telephones. To put through a call, it was necessary to travel to a Central Office, perhaps miles away, or, if no Central Office, directly to the doctor. Night calls were numerous. Many "Rush" ones were demanding, since home remedies or patent medicines proving of no help, the doctor was then needed in a hurry. The time lapse till his possible arrival, often engendered fear in patient and family. Hurrying over the roads of earlier years was useless at any time. In summer, rough and dusty; winter, either deep with snow or treacherous from ice; spring and fall, deeply rutted in mud or wide holes. An axe and shovel were carried in the car at all times, and it was no unusual event to cut saplings growing at the road side to help ease the car from mud or snow. An extra driver was always necessary for the sake of safety at times like these and in heavy storms. Snowshoes were used in winter when neither car nor horse could get through deep snow.

Roughly eight miles from Chester lay Tancook Islands. There was no ferry service, no breakwater, few safe landing places when seas raged on shore lines coated in ice, and one telephone. This connected with Blandford Central, which in turn connected with St. Margaret's on the Halifax road. Sick calls were thus relayed to Doctor Zwicker and the telephone service lacking the refinement of today, it can be readily understood calls were never too clearly defined, merely grasped at. Also, when the news got about that the doctor was coming, there were always other people needing services. Thus it was prudent at all times, to carry along several medical bags,

for the visit to the Island. It was not uncommon for the doctor to be held on the Island for two or three days, if seas became too rough for return journey in the boats then available. These were motor powered and open, with little protection from wind and wave. Their noisy chug chug on the still night or early morning air frequently aroused the doctor from sleep and he would know an Island call was imminent. The more unpleasant trips occurred when the harbour would freeze solid beyond the nearer Islands. This necessitated a walk across, clad in oilskins and rubber boots, with the help of the boatman carrying the several bags, walking across the island to the boat moored on the other side, then fending off ice floes with oars till the boat was well under way.

There were occasions when the sea was too wild and rough to cross those miles in safety by boats of that day. The alternative would then be to take the shorter route to the rockbound, perhaps ice coated Blandford shore, there to somehow get the doctor on board. In turn, this necessitated a long drive around the shore, often most hazardous. Tales are still told in the Village of the many times it was a "near thing" to get the car around the base of Aspotogan Mountain at Deep Cove, where the water, constantly dripping from the mountain, would heap a mound of treacherous ice to slope across the road and over into the Cove.

At the meeting point above the Blandford shore, the boat could be seen lunging shoreward on the high crest of snarling waves, and back as the waves receded. The doctor was directed to throw his bags, one at a time, as the boat lunged shoreward and then, again at a forward lunge, to sit and slide down the steep icy bank into the boat. Frequent sporting events like these always landed everyone safely at their destination.

Unfortunately, no record had been kept of the vast number of obstetrical deliveries through the long years, but undoubtedly the figure would have been very high, occurring either in homes then, or later, in hospitals with which he was affiliated. Many were difficult and some unusual and not always under best working conditions. It was remarkable that the rate of fatalities in either mother or child was kept at a very low minimum. One of the unusual cases was that of a stillborn baby, weighing seventeen pounds, twenty-four inches in length, for whom a special casket had to be made. The parents later moved to the Canadian West. Back on a visit thirty years afterward, the mother came to give Doctor Zwicker credit for saving her life.

Before the days of specialization, it was Doctor Zwicker's firm belief that, according to his capabilities of diagnosis, knowledge of work and ability to perform same, no doctor, worthy of his profession, should shirk what needed to be done, in minor surgery or other ills, by giving over his work to another. Thus, within his own well-equipped surgery, he himself attended to the many cases which came to hand through time, also including fractures. Should the surgery or fracture demand major attention, the case was transferred to hospital where he often assisted. In later years, when patients went more willingly to hospitals, he himself then did major surgery.

Tonsillectomies - minor operations - were usually done in groups, at some home in a large room. A well scrubbed kitchen table set up there was

a basic necessity. Ether was the simplest anesthetic, yet being inflammable it behooved the anesthetist to be ever alert to the danger of an open stove and the oil lamps used.

Medical practice during the former part of the century was very demanding. Much wearisome driving, long absence from office and home, with indefinite time of return. Pneumonia of all types, especially among the young and the aged living in the more remote areas, were often quite prevalent. There was no short cut to bettering this illness, just an endless close watching till the "crisis" - the turning point for life or death - was safely passed and the long trying convalescence begun. The exhausting all night watches of such cases were the dreaded pattern of winters.

Many and varied vaccines have practically wiped out contagious diseases today. In the day of their prevalence, Chester was fortunately never troubled by any serious outbreak of the more virulent types, according to Annual Reports submitted by Doctor Zwicker during his many years as Medical Health Officer of this district. So-called childhood diseases, measles, mumps, whooping cough et al, were taken as a matter of course. Indeed some parents sought such through contacts, while children were still young. Medical work lay mainly in treatment of any serious resulting illness.

The passing years brought changes. Several doctors settled throughout the wide area, roads were improved and cars and telephones became more plentiful. Perhaps the most helpful change came when a ferry service to the Islands was inaugurated, a breakwater built and cable telephone service installed. Night calls became less frequent and the tension and weariness of long driving lessened.

It must be taken into account that, for the many families in remote areas, everyday living at that time was neither easy nor simple, yet the kindness which existed between neighbours, especially in time of sickness, was an active thing and in snowbound winters even more so. It was not unusual at such times for men to team up, clear a road to the Central Office, put through a call to the doctor, assuring him they would get him there, then turn to endless shovelling until behind a drift they met the car.

Nor was it uncommon in times of treacherous roads, to have some conveyance from miles away arrive at the doctor's office. Refusing to allow him to drive alone, he would be taken to his patient and later returned to his office. The conveyance would then be driven home. From such kindnesses there grew a comradeship which was never to be lost.

In this brief outline telling of the rugged life which was the lot of a country doctor in an earlier day, many day to day occurrences remain untold. Withal, the life was deeply satisfying through simple reward; the safe delivery of a healthy well formed baby after a tedious, perhaps difficult, labor; the complete recovery of a medical patient after death-defying-night-watches; of a patient after serious major surgery; the strong healing of a bad fracture after deft setting; the loyalty and the close doctor-patient co-operation, which today is passing away, were all above price. Thus it was that, though offers of new, more lucrative practice came to him from U.S.A.

and larger centers of Nova Scotia, with much urging by colleagues, Doctor Zwicker chose to remain in Chester. Looking back in later years when work, as he knew it, became simplified, no regret was ever expressed for this choice.

DR. E. K. WOODROOFE

Dr. E. K. Woodroofe was graduated from the University of Toronto in 1931. He was born in Charlottetown, P.E.I., in 1906 and before attending University he was a student at Sydney Academy.

He was married to the former Florence Ritchie Harris in 1933 and they moved to Canning, N.S., where Dr. Woodroofe practiced. After many visits to Chester, they decided it was the place in which they would love to settle and made the move in 1936. They moved into their present home on the evening of Dec. 10, 1936, as the radio announced the abdication of Edward VIII.

Dr. Woodroofe can recall many incidents that in retrospect are highly amusing. One of the ones he remembers so well is a ride to Middle River at 7:00 a.m. in 1952 in a violent snow storm, to deliver a baby. He began the trip in a four-wheel drive truck which bogged down at the railway crossing. With the co-operation of the engineer of a freight train he made the trip in the cab of the train and after walking nearly a mile, arrived in time to deliver the baby. There are many amusing and some tragic incidents that could be related, but he feels they are probably normal routine in the practice of a "country doctor". After 30 years in Chester, he and Mrs. Woodroofe are very happy with their decision to make it their home.

William A. Kearney, M.D. was born in Waterford, Ireland; he came to this country in 1831 and at first settled in Guysborough. He moved to Chester and practised here for seven years. Dr. Kearney died here after a brief illness, in 1840.

Severin W. Wielobycki, M. D. was born in Province of Volhynia, Poland, January 8, 1793. He studied medicine in Edinburgh, following graduation he decided to practice in Nova Scotia. He came to Chester in 1842 after the death of Dr. Kearney and remained here for several years. Much of his travelling was done in the saddle, he was an expert horseman and a skillful doctor. He spent the latter part of his life in London where he died Sept. 7, 1893, at the age of one hundred years and eight months.

Charles W. Hiltz, M. D., son of the late John Frederick Hiltz, practised his profession in Chester for several years. He had been formerly a teacher, he succeeded Mr. Lawson in the office of Inspector of Schools. He died in Chester, January 31, 1882. His ability was admitted both as a teacher and as a doctor.

Dr. Arthur M. Hebb a son of the late Solomon Hebb, Bridgewater. A graduate of Dalhousie with a B. A. degree and a degree in Medicine. He spent a few years in the teaching profession, after which he became a doctor in Chester in 1902.

He practised here until 1919, when he moved to Dartmouth; practising until his retirement in 1937. His son, Dr. Peter Hebb took over the practise. He retired to Marriott's Cove. His first wife, Dr. Clara Olding Hebb predeceased him by many years. She also practised medicine in Chester. His second wife, Miss Grace Cruise survives him.

Dr. Hebb died in 1959, his son, Dr. Peter Hebb a few years before.

Other surviving members of his family are Dr. Olding Hebb, Andrew Hebb and Catherine Hebb.

Dr. George C. Jollymore was born in Amherst, Nova Scotia. He graduated from Dalhousie Medical School in May of 1963, and began practise in Chester the following month. Dr. and Mrs. Jollymore and family reside on Chester's back harbour, having purchased the former Winthrop Bell property in the fall of 1965.

Dr. Lloyd Henry Croft was born in Chester Basin, January 29, 1890, the son of Irving H. and Eliza Croft. After finishing school there he attended Acadia Collegiate Academy. He later graduated from the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario with an L.D.S. degree and a D.D.S. degree from Toronto University in 1920.

He married Myrtle K. Meadows of Stewiacke. He practised his profession for about two years in Chester Basin before coming to Chester. In Chester he opened an office on Duke Street and three years later purchased the property on Queen Street from the late Dr. G. R. Hennigar and has carried on his practise there until the present time — about forty-four and one-half years.

He was about five years a Councillor in Municipal Council of Chester and Warden for twelve years. He has always been keenly interested in community affairs.

Dr. Croft had a family of four — three daughters and one son.

Names of other doctors who practiced in the area are:—

Dr. Morse, Dr. Braine, Dr. Pinneo, Dr. Dabney, Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Kelly,

Dr. C. W. L. Stanford a dentist practiced in Chester for a good number of years.

Dr. Rod Frazer is the present dentist. A graduate of Dalhousie University he started practice in Chester in 1963.

SUMMER COLONY AT CHESTER

The Wister family came to Chester in the late eighteen hundreds, first staying at the Lovett House. Later, in 1885, they purchased the old block-house property and made it their summer home "Wisteria". Their daughters, Mrs. C. Wurts and Mrs. J. Starr, continued coming to Chester and acquired here homes of their own. Fifth generations of this family are still journeying annually to spend their summer here. The Cavendish, Blain, Dayton, and McNeily families are descendants of the Wisters.

The Wisters were followed by other families from Philadelphia, Baltimore and other parts of the United States. Men of eminence purchased property and had built attractive summer homes to which they brought their families and friends on vacation during the summer months. By the early part of this century a sizable Summer Colony was formed.

Dr. Charles Simon of Baltimore built his home on Walkers Point and with his family occupied it for many summers. It is now owned by Sifford Paree of Baltimore. Dr. John Finny and Dr. Russell came from Baltimore to visit Dr. Simon and charmed with the natural beauty and air of peaceful simplicity of the village, they returned and too, made their summer homes here. Dr. Russell's was built on property adjoining the Simon property. It was later purchased by J. Kempt Bartlett of Baltimore. Members of the Bartlett family still spend their summers at Chester.

Dr. John Finny Sr. was a prominent surgeon at the John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. He purchased the home on Little Fish Island, built for General Rutherford Bingham. Members of the Finny family have continued to occupy the Island Home during the summer months. A son of Dr. John Finny, Dr. J. M. T. Finny, spends his years of retirement at Chester in a home on the mainland. Dr. George Finny and Dr. D. C. W. Finny, son of the late Eben Finny, an Architect, have homes on the Peninsula.

General Rutherford Bingham was a veteran of the Spanish American War and a former Police Commissioner of New York City. He had built the large home over-looking the Front Harbour. The house is now owned by Robert Bell. Next door, facing the water, was the home of Col. Perry Heath. This property was later sold to Charles Talcott of Hartford, Connecticut, and is still occupied by his family.

The Keasby brothers, Lindley and Fredrick, first came to Chester while on a bicycle tour. They built the large white pillared house overlooking the Back Harbour. For some years it was owned by C. Wharton Smith, Baltimore. At present it is owned by Mrs. Norman Galt of Montreal. Professor Keasby was interested in tourism and was one of those active in forming the Chester Tourist Association. His brother, Fredrick, built a home by the Back Harbour which was later owned by T. C. Boville. The F. Keasbeys then moved to Marriott's Cove where a son, Anthony, of Morristown, N.Y., now summers.

Fredrick Morris and his sister were among the early home buyers. They bought the dwelling of Harry Smith on King St. Later it was sold to Bishop

John Murray of Baltimore, who visited for several summers with his family. It is now the residence of J. W. Carsley.

✓ Mr. Howard Haman, Baltimore, erected the first home on Gooseberry Island. The island was sold in the nineteen-twenties to E. W. Groves of St. Louis, Mo., who later purchased a peninsula home, built by a Mr. Zell. Members of the Grove family still occupy this dwelling. Gooseberry Island was purchased by J. P. Porter of Montreal, whose family lived there until recent years. The island is now owned by James Moir.

The home now owned by Col. Sidney Oland was built for Dr. Wm. Jacques, an inventor, of Boston. Dr. Jacques' daughter married Col. John Miller, a native of Scotland. They made their home in Chester, building the residence now owned by Rear Admiral Brock. A son, Wm. Miller, and a daughter, Mrs. Margaret McCurdy, are permanent residents of Chester.

Adjoining the property of Dr. Jacques was the home of Mrs. Powhatan Clark and her son, Powhatan Jr. This Clark family claimed descendancy from the Indian Chief Powhatan, father of Pocohontas of historical fame. Later this residence was owned by Frank Clark whose daughter, Mrs. W. Champlain Robinson and family, came to Chester until recent years.

Dr. Andrew Anderson, St. Petersburg, Fla. — An old time summer visitor's home is now occupied by his daughter, Mrs. Tucker Gibbs.

Miss D. Gilman and the late Miss E. Paxon visited their home annually over the greater part of this century. Miss Gilman continues to come each year from Massachusetts, to summer at "Whitegate".

Mrs. Overton Lea of Washington was a summer visitor for a good number of years. Her daughter married a lawyer, James Murdock, and with their family they continued to come to Chester for the summer vacation. James Murdock Jr. now owns a summer residence at East Chester.

Mrs. Hegeman and daughter, Mrs. A. P. Rogers, of New York, owned a home near the parade grounds. Dr. Samuel Tyler, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Dr. Whitmore, Dayton, Ohio, built the small cottage on the end of the Peninsula. They were unmarried at the time, so they called it the "Bachelor Button". Dr. Tyler's widow summers in Chester with her niece, Mrs. Tucker Gibbs.

Mrs. Carroll of Baltimore built the second summer residence on the Peninsula. It was later occupied by her daughter and her husband, Judge W. C. Chestnut and family. It was later sold to Graham Fraser of Halifax and is now the summer residence of Richard Burell and family.

Next to this property was a home built for a Mr. Nash. Later this became the summer home for the family of F. L. W. Folke of Oshawa, Ont.

Miss Anna Biddle, Rome, N.Y., had one of the first homes on the Peninsula. It is now the home of Mrs. M. McCurdy.

Mrs. E. Hensel, Ardmore, Phil., summered on the Peninsula. Her daughter married J. N. Pew, Jr., President of the Sun Oil Co. This family has homes

on the Peninsula and at Lobster Point. Another daughter, Mrs. Wharton Smith Jr., also had a summer home here. Other summer residences were those of Mr. and Mrs. Crounse and Dr. Rev. Robert Johnson, Washington. Dr. Johnson's daughters, Miss Margaret Johnson, and Mrs. Brenton Cofelt and her family, continue to spend their summers in Chester.

In the nineteen-twenties Mr. Henry MacCormick, Philadelphia, had a large summer home built on the Peninsula. Until recently it was occupied by his sister, Miss Ann. The home is now owned by Maurice Edwards.

Still another Peninsula Dweller was Professor Jacob Beam of Princeton, N. J. His son, Jacob Beam Jr., became U.S. Ambassador to Russia and is now stationed at Prague. Others were Rev. Thomas Campbell, Boston, whose son, James, is a noted neuro-surgeon of Troy, N.Y.; Dr. Hibbens, president of Princeton University (Dr. Hibbens' home is now owned by Arthur Pattillo, a summer resident who is a descendant of Alexander Pattillo who settled in Chester in 1783). Mr. W. A. Law, Phil., U.S.A., President of the Penna-Mutual Ins. Co., another property owner who enjoyed his vacations here, his daughter, Miss Margaret Law, a well known writer and poet, still visits this area. At one time she had a summer place on Hume's Island. Mrs. E. O. MacVitty of Washington still comes to the family summer home on the Peninsula. Dr. Robert Clothier, Phil., a former president of Rutgers University, still visits here.

On Nauss Point Mrs. John Gibson Jr. of Pittsburg, summers in the home she long occupied with her late husband and family.

Mrs. E. R. Witmer, Philadelphia, is one of the oldest visitors to Chester, coming each summer to her home on Nauss Point built by her husband, Dr. Lightner Witmer.

The old homestead of the Nauss family in much its original state, was the residence of E. S. Mills of New York. This property now belongs to Lt. Col. Mather of Montreal.

Miss Dorothy Huey and Miss Wilson, Philadelphia, own the old Evans homestead "T'Other End" at the Head of the Front Cove.

Dr. Alex Anderson and Dr. Ross Faulkner of New York had summer homes near the Golf Links Road. Mr. T. A. Pugsley of Halifax now owns the Faulkner house and Mr. Douglas Webber, Halifax, owns the Anderson house. Previous to Mr. Webber coming in possession of this property, known as "Landfall", it had been occupied by the late Commander Adrian Hope.

Early in this century Vernon Woolrich, a native of England, purchased the land adjoining the Abe Webber farm with intentions of building a replica of "Haddon Hall" in England. This section is now commonly known as "Haddon Hill". After erecting some stone work he abandoned this ambitious plan. His family used a small home on the property as a summer home for a number of years. Later the property was sold to Peter Jack of Halifax who built the present residence, now owned by D. W. MacKeen.

The estate now owned by F. G. T. Dawson, a native of England, was built for Bishop Shane of Washington, and Monsignor McGolderick, and Dr. Pace of New York. They named it "MONTA BELLA". In the early twenties it was sold to Col. Arthur Weston, Halifax, who in turn sold it to A. Dearborn Smith, Lynwood, Penna.

Other valued members of the Summer Colony were Canadians. Mr. W. H. Brookfield, Halifax, maintained a large estate "Glen Cove" on Walker's Point. This residence had formerly belonged to Keith Hudson of England. Mr. Brookfield's daughter, Queenie, married Col. Alexander Miller and lived in Chester until her death. Mr. Miller is still residing here and one daughter owns a summer place here. F. L. W. Folke, Oshawa, Ont., had a summer home on the Peninsula. Mr. Folke was a member of parliament in the Laurier Government. At the time of the Halifax Explosion he was asked by Sir Robert Borden to be a Relief Commissioner for the government in Halifax. His son, F. W. Folke, barrister of Bridgewater, now owns the family summer home. The daughter, Miss Shirley Folke, a writer, has a residence on the Peninsula.

W. H. Piers, Halifax, was another annual visitor. A son, Rear Admiral Desmond Piers, has a permanent home here and a daughter, wife of Rear Admiral Finch Noyes, is a summer resident.

General Sircom of Halifax was a long time summer visitor to Chester. His house "Ashcot" was later occupied by his son-in-law, Dr. Sam Allen. For a number of years Dr. Allen had taught at Cinn., Ohio, and each summer he brought his family of four boys and one daughter to their summer cottage at Marriott's Cove. A son, Dr. John Allen, has a summer home on Hume's Island. Dr. S. Allen was a keen yachtman. General Sircom and T. C. Boville were instrumental in starting the Chester Yacht Club. Mr. Boville was a Deputy Finance Minister in the Canadian Government.

The foregoing account covers the majority of the tourists who built homes in Chester in the first quarter of this century. The village is still a popular vacation haven with many Canadian people now owning summer homes here, as well as descendants of the first United States Tourists.

Information gathered and written by Blanche Webber.

1887 - 1951

Men and women that I have known within the above period, that have been part time residents or summer visitors in Chester, and with whom I have been associated with in one way or another.

Dr. Charles E. Simon and Mrs. Simon — Dr. Simon was the first American Summer Visitor to purchase land on which to build a summer cottage. He bought the eastern half of the Hiram Walker Point. He had been visiting Chester for one or two summers previously, and had been boarding with my brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. R. Curren Smith. While he was the first

to buy land within the above period, he wasn't the first American to own property in Chester. In 1885 Mr. John Wister had purchased the property called the Wister place, still owned and occupied each summer by Mr. Wister's daughters.

Professor Lindley Keasbey of Bryn Mawr College — Mr. Keasbey bought the old Baptist Church which stood on the same lot, but faced on Pleasant Street. It was quite a large building with a gallery on each side, had square box pews with doors to them, the Pulpit being a kind of half round structure, high enough so the minister could see those in the galleries as well as the congregation on the main floor. Mr. Keasbey had it moved to its present position and with some additions converted it into a Hotel. Mr. Keasbey was the first one to cater solely to the Tourist Trade.

Frederick Morris — When he came to Chester he was a very sick man, who on the advice of Dr. Simon came here to try to recover his health, to such an extent that he started building vessels, using his money to give the men employment, and at the same time keep his mind busy. He died here and is buried in the Old Baptist Cemetery.

Miss Caroline Morris — Miss Morris was a sister to Frederick. After he was here for a time, she came and purchased property now owned by Mrs. Margaret Wiswell and Miss Kitty Manning. Bishop Murray had purchased the place from the heirs of Miss Morris, and summered there until he died. Miss Morris had lived here for some years after Fred died, and when she was getting quite old she went back to Philadelphia. Before leaving here she came to see me, and wanted me to come down to her house to see her, she told me she was going back home to die, and she wanted me to have some of her books, nearly all of which I still have. She was a great lover of Prof. Henry Drummond and knowing that I regarded him very highly she wanted me to have what books of his she had. Miss Morris did not live long after she went back home, and she gave orders before her death to have her body cremated and the ashes buried in the lot where Fred was buried, telling her nephew to take them to Chester, find me and have me go with him to fulfill her wish, which he did.

✓ **Dr. E. M. Schaeffer** — Another early summer visitor, bought the property now owned by Mrs. Phylis Walker. It was part of the Walker Point and near that of his dear friend, Dr. Simon. Dr. Schaeffer boarded with us for one or two summers, he loved Fried Frogs Legs, and was an expert on mushrooms, he would go roaming over the field looking for them, one time he bought some, what we called Toad Stools. We told him we thought he was mistaken, that we always thought them to be poisonous, but he said "no" they were just as good as any other kind. He came to an untimely death. ✓

Frederick Keasbey — He purchased the part of the Walker Point west of the Simon property, later Dr. W. W. Russell's. The property is now owned by another friend of Chester, J. Kempt Bartlett. Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett have not been in Chester for some years. Their sons are still summer visitors.

Bishop John Murray — He was one of the summer visitors that took a great interest in the community life, he did a great deal to help build up the Library, he was liberal in his views, on one occasion he preached for us in the Baptist Church. He was primate of all the Episcopal Churches in the United States and their Dependencies. He loved to fish, and I think he knew every lake or place in the whole country side, where a trout or bass might live. I had the pleasure of spending one afternoon on the lake with him trying for some bass.

John B. Hibbens, President of Princeton University — He and Mrs. Hibbens were loved by all who came in contact with them, while occupying a high position they were just everyday people. His own friends in Princeton purchased an Automobile as a gift for them. he was learning to drive it, and had an accident in which they were both killed, they were still young, and we who knew them and also knew something of the work they were doing, cannot help but ask why? To which there can be no answer.

Dr. J. M. T. Finney and Mrs. Finney — Doctor Finney has been known by a greater number of citizens of the municipality than any other summer visitor. His wonderful ability as a Surgeon and Physician, his big hearted love for his fellow man, his willingness to listen to the poorest individual, his generous help, whether by his medical skill or his money, made him an outstanding character, where ever he might dwell. His work in the First War was a tribute of Love, a desire to do the Will of His Master, regardless of the cost. Mrs. Finney was one of the great among women. Their daughter, Mary, had only to be known to be remembered and loved. She was one of the younger, Young Ladies, that took much interest in the activities of the Library matters. The sons and brothers of the family still are summer visitors, each having their own summer dwellings.

Mr. B. Howard Haman — He purchased what is known as "Gooseberry Island" which was owned by the Heir of the late George Nass, deceased. Mr. Haman was a lawyer from Baltimore, Md. Later he bought the center strip of the Peninsula from the Front Harbour to the west side, which is now owned by Mrs. Alberta Pew, and the Island by Mr. Porter.

Colonel Bingham — The Colonel purchased the island known as "Little Fish" now owned by the Heirs of Dr. J. M. T. Finney who has owned it for years, and is where his son, Dr. George, has his summer residence. After the Colonel sold the island he bought the property on South Street and built the house in which his son, Rutherford, now lives. At one time the Colonel was Commissioner of Police for the City of New York.

Frederick Morris — Mr. Morris was a patient of Dr. Simon's, his home was in Philadelphia and he was a very sick man, when the Doctor advised him to come to Chester, he had to be helped from one conveyance to another while making the journey, and it did appear he would never recover, but he did, and became so interested in Chester, that he remained here until he died. In order to have something to occupy his mind he started to build fishing schooners, and in so doing gave employment to quite a few men, buying

all material needed from the local people. Not being able to look after the work himself he had to employ others, the outcome was that the venture did not give him the returns it should have. He was a very fine type of man, both he and his sister, Caroline, of whom I have referred to previously, were Christians, who lived their Christianity. I never knew what sect they adhered to but I think they had Quaker blood in their veins. Both are buried in the Old Baptist Cemetery.

Miss A. B. Ellison — Miss Ellison was one of the first to buy property on the Freda Peninsula. She and Miss O'Dounhough, a lady companion to Miss Ellison, lived here for many summers, until Miss Ellison died, then the property was left to Miss O'Dounhough, and is still occupied by her and her sister.

Miss Grace Merrill — Miss Merrill also purchased a part of the Peninsula land and built a summer residence. She, too, had a lady companion, Miss Elizabeth Lennox. When Miss Merrill died, her property went to Miss Lennox and her sister, Miss Capon, and they now spend their summers in Chester. Both Miss Lennox and Miss Merrill were interested in the Library.

Miss Helen Gross — Miss Gross was another peninsula resident. She was a sister of Mrs. J. M. T. Finney, the wife of Dr. Finney.

Miss Grace Carroll — She also had a summer home on the Peninsula, which is now owned by a Halifax man by the name of Fraser.

Professor Jacob Beam and Mrs. Beam — Mr. Beam was one of the teachers at Princeton University, now retired. Mrs. Beam always was ready to help any good cause. She died a few years ago. Mr. Beam is still living and when I was talking to him he told me he was in his eighties; yet he was still quick on his feet, and his mind clear and keen as ever. Mr. Beam is a tall man with broad shoulders. An incident which occurred at the beginning of the last war in which Mr. Beam's clothes and canes take a part, I am going to relate here, just as I heard it from the actors themselves. The British warship the "Royal Sovereign" was at anchor in Halifax Basin. She carries a crew of thirteen hundred. Two of the Gunners from one of the big turrets received shore leave for the night. They both were quite big men, and after wandering around the City, they found themselves out at the Northwest Arm. They walked up the Arm Hill, with no idea of getting away from the ship, when a motorist stopped and asked them "if they wanted a lift". They answered "yes" and jumped in the car. They drove along a little further when the motorist asked them "Where are you going? I turn off here". They then wanted to know where this road would take them. "To Chester". As the evening was fairly fine and warm, they kept on walking, when another motorist picked them up. Finally they landed at Chester, about 12 o'clock, about 12 or 1 o'clock, there was no one on the streets and they drifted over to the Peninsula, and as all the houses were seemingly empty they went up on the verandah and laid down to rest. Getting cold they went around the house to see if there was any chance to get inside, finding a window that they could open they crawled inside. Here was a fine big Fireplace with lots of wood and

kindling. They proceeded to make a fire. In the morning they found some food that had been left there by the summer occupants. They stayed there all day. When night came they went over to the next house and got in the same way as they did in the other house. Here they found food and part of a bottle of wine, which they took, then returned to the first house which was the Jacob Beam Summer Residence. In looking through the house they came across Mr. Beam's clothes closet. They were now long overdue aboard ship. "We're in for it now. We might just as well keep on going". They took off their uniforms and their boots, and dressed themselves in Mr. Beam's clothes, rolled the uniforms in a bundle and hung them down the well. Each took a cane, and started going west. By now the R.C.M. Police were out in force after them, but these two well-dressed gentlemen travelled on to Lunenburg and from there up the river to Bridgewater. After going through the Town they went up the river. They stopped a man they met and asked him "If there were any Lumber Camps around?" He replied "yes, there is a couple of Camps up the River, but if you are looking for work, for Heaven's sake leave them canes in the woods before you get to the camp." The Bridgewater Police car had passed them twice, after he had passed them this time, he said to the other officer that was with him, "We are looking for men in naval uniforms, but I'm going back and have a talk with those fellows with the canes". When the Police stopped them, they just grinned and said, "I guess the game is finished, Penalty Ninety Days". As the offence was committed in Chester, the Police brought the Sailors before me. The owners of the property that had been broken into were in the United States, and no charge had been laid. I looked at the two boys, and thought, big as they are, they are only two boys, fighting for what we call liberty", and looking them in the face I said, "Boys, what did you leave the ship for?" Reply "Oh, to get clear of the monotony". To appreciate that answer you need to know something of a naval ship, dressed for action.

Written by Cottnam Tonge Smith in Chester in 1951

A Copy

Kindly contributed by his grandson, T. C. Smith.

Chip Smith

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the many friends who have contributed in any way in compiling this History of Chester.

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